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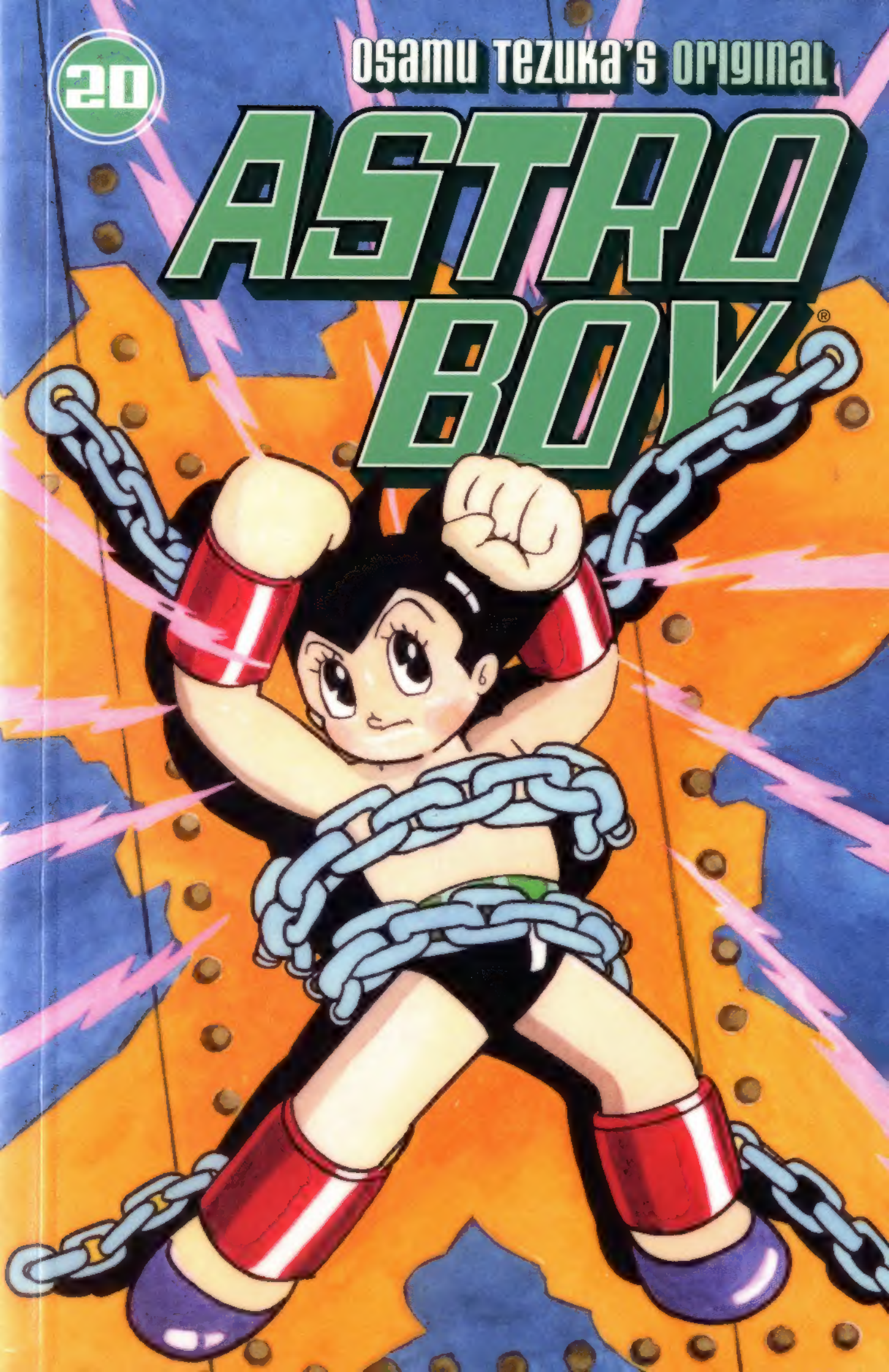
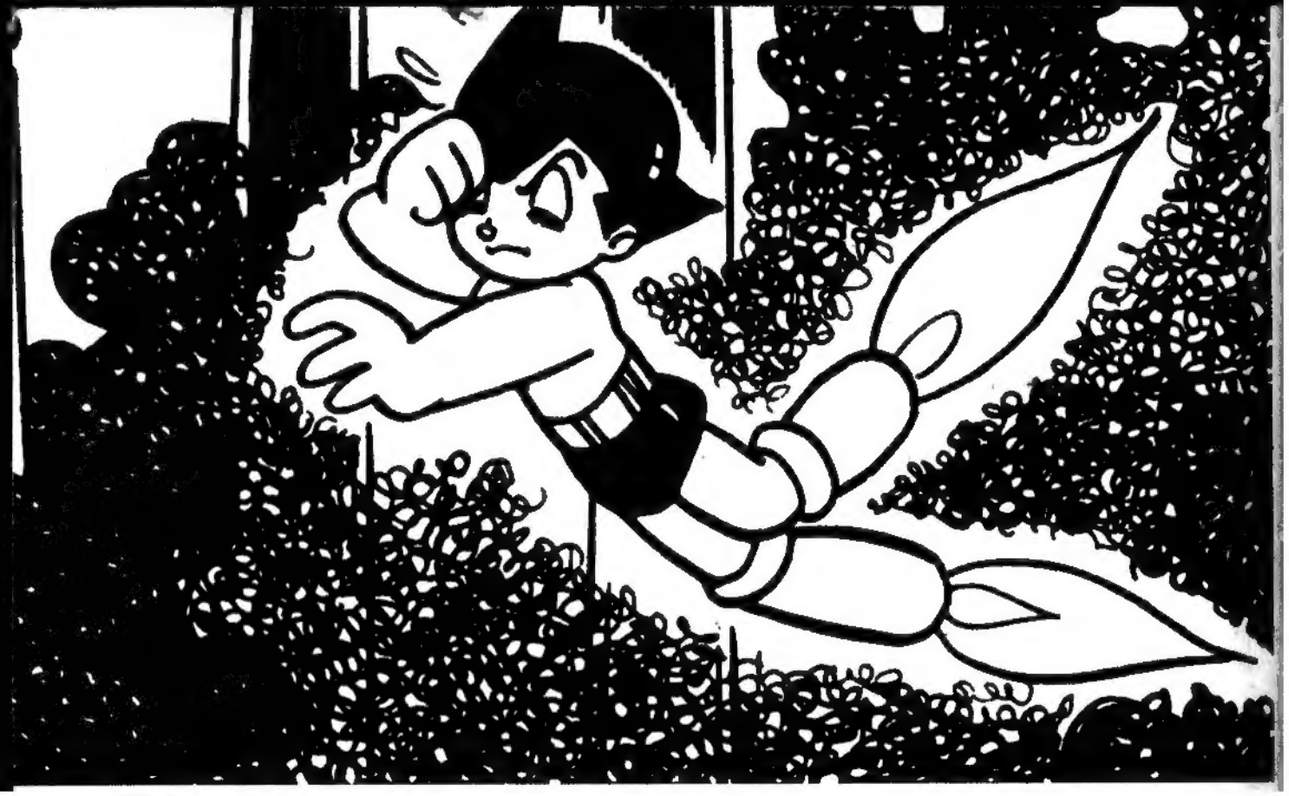
Osamu Tezuka's Original

ASTRO BOY®





ASTRO BOY

20

by

Osamu Tezuka

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THE MELANIN TRIBE

First serialized from June to August 1966
in *Shonen* magazine.

Recap of Stories from Volume 19

The "Robot Law" mandates that robots serve humans and never injure or kill them. But the Blue Knight (made by Dr. Los) refused to obey this law. He decided to create a nation for robots, where they could live in freedom. Fearing that Blue Knight or robots like him might injure people, humans started scrapping more and more robots.

Astro Boy believed in the Robot Law, and had been fighting the Blue Knight, but when it appeared that his own father and mother were about to be scrapped, he decided to help Blue Knight and his forces form their own nation.

At the instigation of Count Burg, a confirmed robot-hater, a human army attacked the new robot nation. Astro Boy and the other robots fought back valiantly and defeated the human forces, but after winning, Astro had to confront Blue Knight, who was determined to exact revenge on the humans. Astro was then run through with the Blue Knight's sword.

After arriving on the scene, Dr. Los revealed the secret of Blue Knight's true origins to Professor Ochanomizu and told him that Blue Knight was actually one and the same as Tonto, the young boy robot. But just then Count Burg, whose forces had lost the battle, blew up Blue Knight.

Professor Ochanomizu was left holding the remnants of a completely destroyed Astro Boy.

When he began to try to repair Astro, he ran into great difficulty. Much to his regret, he was forced to ask Astro's original creator, Dr. Tenma, to help him.

Having long dreamed of creating a world where robots ruled, Tenma agreed to help Ochanomizu restore Astro, but only on the condition that he be allowed to keep Astro as his "son" and to scrap Astro's family.

At first, the repairs of Astro appeared to be successful, but it soon became apparent that he had developed a completely different personality. He was no longer at all sympathetic to humans!

SOMEWHERE, BEHIND THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE'S DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION MACHINERY...

... IS A MAMMOTH *ROBOT WARE-HOUSE*...

... A PLACE WHERE SECOND-HAND ROBOTS AND PARTS OF BROKEN DOWN ROBOTS ARE STORED-- MUCH LIKE A GIANT ROBOT *SCRAP YARD*...

STOP... THIS IS IT HERE...

OKAY, START SMASHING!

HUMANS ARE *TERRIBLE!* LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO ALL THESE POOR ROBOTS!

MOM! WHERE ARE YOU?

MOM! DAD! ANSWER ME!!

UH OH!

MOM! DAD! NOW I REMEMBER...

YOU'RE MY *REAL* FAMILY! AND THIS IS MY LITTLE SISTER, *URAN*, AN' MY YOUNGER BROTHER, *COBALT!*

OKAY, GIVE 'EM SOME OF YOUR ENERGY!

C'MON OVER HERE!

YOUR ENGINE'S STARTED!

ASTRO!

MOM! IT'S ME, *ASTRO!*

YOU CAME TO SAVE US, DIDN'T YOU, SON...

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, ASTRO... I THOUGHT I'D *NEVER* SEE YOU AGAIN!

DR. TENMA SAID HE WAS GOING TO MAKE YOU *HIS* SON....

SO WE WEREN'T *NECES-SARY* ANYMORE! THAT'S WHY WE WERE PUT TO SLEEP....

ME?! DR. TENMA'S SON?!

YOU MUST BE *KIDDING!*

HE'S A *HUMAN*, RIGHT?

HOW CAN A ROBOT BE A *HUMAN'S* SON?

THAT'S *CRAZY!*

OKAY, GIVE THE OTHER ROBOTS HERE SOME ENERGY!

ASTRO!

YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO ACT LIKE THIS?! DID *PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU* GIVE YOU *PERMISSION?!*

OKAY, EVERYBODY'S *FREE* NOW!

Y-YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO DO THIS, ASTRO? WE COULD GET INTO *TROUBLE!*

WOW... THIS IS GREAT... CAN WE REALLY LEAVE?

I DON'T GET WHY WE'RE BEING FREED...

♪SPEEP♪ ♪BZEEEP♪

THOUGHT I'D *NEVER* HAVE MY POWER TURNED ON AGAIN...

IF THEY'RE LETTING AN OL' GEEZER LIKE ME GO, THEY MUST REALLY BE SHORT OF ROBOTS RIGHT NOW...

HEY! LOOK! EVEN THOSE DEFECTIVE ROBOTS ARE LEAVING!

KAVOOSH

THOSE ROBOTS ARE USELESS BUMS!!

SOME OF 'EM ARE TOTALLY *CRAZY!*

WHEEE
WHEEE
WHEE
WHEEE

HEY, YOU CRAZY ROBOTS... GET OFF THE ROOF OF MY CAR!

KYAAAA
PEEEEEE

HOLY COW! IT'S LIKE A *ROBOT RUSH HOUR!* THERE'S AN ENDLESS WAVE OF 'EM POURING OUT OF THE WAREHOUSE!

WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON? AND WHERE'S PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?!

WHAT?! HE'S NOT AT THE MINISTRY? WELL, *FIND* OUT WHERE HE IS!

TAWASHI.... THEY'VE FOUND THE PROFESSOR... HE'S IN A RESTAURANT IN THE SUBURBS...

INSPECTOR TAWASHI?! IT'S ME, *PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!*

LISTEN PROFESSOR... WHAT'S GOING ON?! THIS IS ALL *ASTRO'S* DOING!!

WELL, I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE... IF ASTRO WENT INTO THE ROBOT WAREHOUSE, HE MIGHT'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE UPSET...

"MIGHT'VE"?! WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?!

I'M ARRESTING HIM RIGHT AWAY!

NO!!!

LISTEN, TAWASHI, LEAVE ASTRO UP TO ME! I'M THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE....

BUT...

LISTEN, I NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!

B-BUT ...

IF ASTRO DOES ANYTHING WRONG, *I'LL* TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY...

B..BUT....

I *TRUST* ASTRO!

SLAM

HEH HEH... WELL, IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING, OCHANOMIZU...

NOW ASTRO'S *REALLY* GOT A MIND OF HIS OWN...

I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE SAYS!

I SWEAR I'LL RESTORE ASTRO TO NORMAL!

THAT'S OUR OLD HOUSE... REMEMBER IT, ASTRO?

HM... NOPE... MY BRAIN'S STILL BLANK, URAN...

WHA?! OUR NAME PLATE'S GONE!

HMPH!... THIS ISN'T THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE...

GOSH, WHAT'LL WE DO, DEAR...?

WHILE YOU WERE GONE, ASTRO, WE WERE PUT IN STORAGE....

...THE HOUSE WAS EMPTY, SO I GUESS IT WAS SOLD...

LOOK! SOME *STRANGERS* LIVE HERE NOW...

HEY! THEY'RE *ROBOTS!*

I'LL GO FIND ANOTHER HOUSE FOR US, DAD!

DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT GETS US INTO TROUBLE, ASTRO...

FRANKLY, I HATE MODERN HOUSES LIKE THIS...

I LIKE *OLDER* PLACES WITH MORE *ATMOSPHERE*... WONDER WHY THEY HAVE TO RENOVATE THIS AREA, ANYWAY? IT'S SO *STUPID*...

I CAN POUR MY OWN TEA JUST FINE, THANK YOU!

I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO ALL THESE ROBOTIC GADGETS...

PEOPLE DESTROY THEIR HAPPY OLD HOMES THESE DAYS JUST 'CUZ THE HOMES'RE OLD...

THAT'S WHY I HAD TO MOVE OUT OF MY OLD TENEMENT AND BE ASSIGNED THIS PLACE...

I SURE HATE WHAT THE CITY OF TOKYO'S DOING...

SWISH

GULP?!

ASTRO?!

I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID WHILE I WAS FLYING OVERHEAD...

HEARD ME TALKING TO MYSELF, EH? HEH HEH... THAT WON'T DO...

I WANT THIS HOUSE. PLEASE *LEAVE!*

WHA?!

I SAID, I'M TAKING POSSESSION OF THIS PLACE!

NOW, ASTRO... ENOUGH WITH THE JOKES, OKAY?

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I COMPLAIN, *A HOME IS A HOME...*

NO MORE COMPLAINTS! GET OUT!!

HEY! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO, ASTRO?!

I'M YOUR *TEACHER*, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW!!

I DON'T CARE. I WANT THIS HOUSE, SO I'M *TAKING* IT!

ALL HUMANS HAVE TO LEAVE!

ENOUGH JOKING, ASTRO! I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* OF THIS! YOU'RE GOING *TOO FAR!*

HOLY COW!

KA FOOOMP

S-STOP! H-HOUSE THIEF! GIMME BACK MY HOUSE!

MOM... DAD...! I GOT US A HOUSE!

SNIFF HE STOLE MY *HOUSE*, PROFESSOR!

ASTRO KICKED ME OUT... AND ON TOP OF THAT, HE RAN OFF WITH MY HOUSE... AN' HE... HE SOB TREATED ME LIKE AN IDIOT!

NOW, NOW, MUSTACHIO.... I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT ASTRO... IT'S LIKE THIS...

REALLY?

YOU'RE *KIDDING* ...

YOU CAN'T BE *SERIOUS*...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

NOW IT MAKES SENSE!

IS THASH SHO?

NOW I'VE FINALLY GOT AN IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING ON...

IN OTHER WORDS, ASTRO'S REBELING AGAINST US HUMANS AND OUR ENTIRE SYSTEM... HE'S TRYING TO DESTROY EVERYTHING...

THAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE CASE UP TO NOW...

...BUT I'M SURE HE'LL WISE UP TO ALL THIS SOON!

WE HUMANS HAVEN'T HAD MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH ROBOTS...

I NEED YOU TO GO EASY ON HIM FOR AWHILE, MUSTACHIO....

GO *EASY* ON HIM?

LISTEN... RIGHT NOW I'M HOMELESS... *UNDER-STAND?!!*

TELL YOU WHAT, MUSTACHIO... I'LL ASK THE CITY OF TOKYO TO LET YOU LIVE IN YOUR OLD HOUSE!

YAY! NOW YOU'RE TALKING! I'M ALL FOR THAT!

GOSH, I GUESS I REALLY OWE IT TO ASTRO, AFTER ALL... HEH HEH...

SCREEECH

KRAASSSH

HEY, YOU STUPID ROBOT! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE *LEFT* SIDE OF THE ROAD!

HUMANS MAY DRIVE ON THE LEFT SIDE, BUT I'M A *ROBOT*, 'N I'LL WALK WHERE *I WANT!*

ARREST THIS ROBOT, OFFICER! HE *RUINED* MY CAR!

DON'T EVEN TRY IT!!!

HELLO? UM, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU HERE...

WHA? ASTRO DID *WHAT?* OH, SORRY TO HEAR THAT...

GACK! THIS IS *TERRIBLE!*

THE SMOG HERE'S AWFUL!

WHY DO HUMANS DO THIS?!

HUMANS FOUL UP EVERY-THING...

BUT MAYBE *THIS* WILL HELP!

THE SMOKE STACKS ARE *BLOCKED!*

HAALP! ♪HACK!♪ ♪KOFF!♪ I CAN'T BREATHE!

♪HACK♪ ♪HACK♪

WHA? ASTRO DID? REALLY?

UM, SORRY...

HELLO? OH, HE DID? AGAIN? I'M *SO* SORRY...

ASTRO! PLEASE, NOT AGAIN!!

HEH HEH.... SO, OCHANOMIZU... TIME TO GIVE UP, NO?

GIVE UP?

ME?!

I'M STILL IN THIS FIGHT, TENMA!

AN' I *BE-LIEVE* IN ASTRO!

STUPID SHARON

HONK

HONK

UH OH... THOSE MIGRATING BIRDS'LL SMASH INTO THE NEON SIGN!

KABABOOM

KONK

KONK

POP

HALP! THE POWER'S GONE OFF!!

HONK

HONK

HONK

ASTRO BOY SMASHED A LARGE NEON SIGN IN THE GINZA REGION OF TOKYO TODAY, AND AS A RESULT THE AREA EXPERIENCED A TWO-HOUR POWER BLACKOUT. DAMAGES ARE ESTIMATED AT...

EGADS... IT'S HAPPENING DAY AND NIGHT!!

I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THIS!

HI, ASTRO! GOSH, YOU'RE THE GREATEST!

?

I LOVE THE WAY YOU SMASHED THAT NEON SIGN!

I WANNA SMASH SOME NEON, TOO!

URAN!!

LISTEN... ASTRO DID A BAD THING!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT!

B-BUT WHY NOT?

ASTRO, COME HERE!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, SON!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH GRIEF YOU'RE GIVING PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU EVERY DAY?!

HEY, HE'S A HUMAN! WHO CARES ABOUT HIM?!

LISTEN, ASTRO! IN THIS WORLD ROBOTS GAIN HAPPINESS BY GETTING ALONG WITH HUMANS AND SERVING THEM!! YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DEFY HUMANS LIKE THIS!

BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

WAY TA GO!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WAY TO GO," URAN?!

GO TO BED, ASTRO! NO ENERGY REFILL FOR YOU TONIGHT!

G'NIGHT, DAD...

RRINNG

PLEASE GOD, NOT *ANOTHER* PROBLEM...

HELLO? SORRY, I APOLOGIZE, REALLY...

WHAT?! ASTRO'S GONE *OVER-SEAS?!*

RIGHT. TO *AFRICA*. AND HE CLAIMS HE'S GOING TO FORM A *ROBOT NATION* THERE!!

IT'S AN INSULT TO HUMANITY! IT'S TREASON! HE'S BETRAYING US!

WHA?! HE TOOK URAN WITH HIM?! THIS IS *TERRIBLE!*

I'M HEADED FOR AFRICA RIGHT NOW, TAWASHI!!

WELL, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU... IF YOU'RE GOING, I AM, TOO...

WE CAN *BOTH* SEE WHAT ASTRO'S PLANNING!

STOP! YOU MUST NOT PROCEED BEYOND THIS POINT!

WHY NOT?!

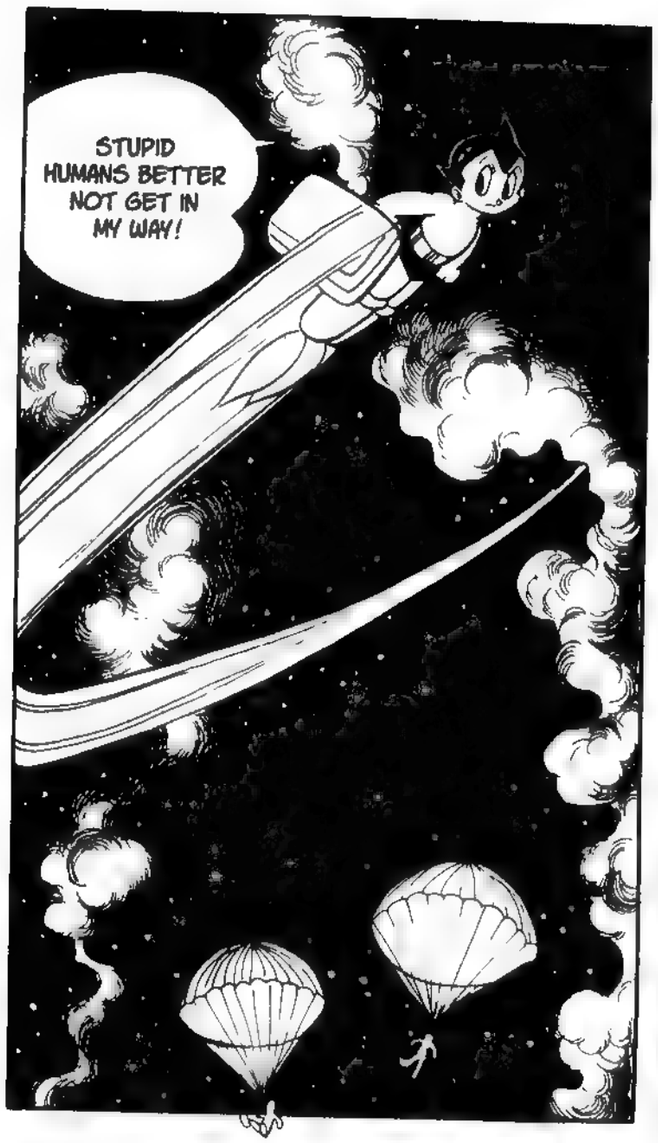
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO UNDER THE ROBOT LAW!

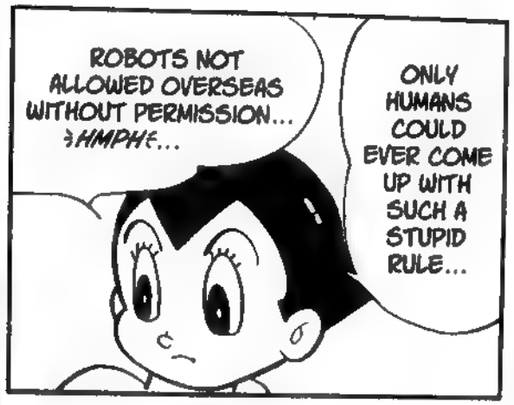
COME BACK!

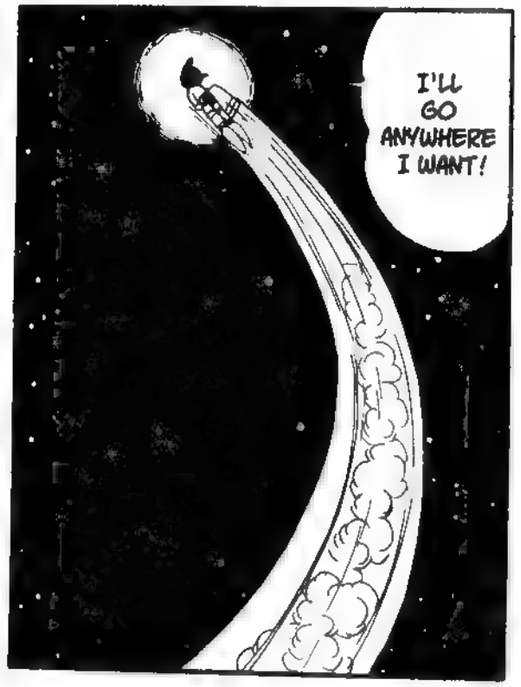
STOP, OR YOU'RE UNDER *ARREST!!*

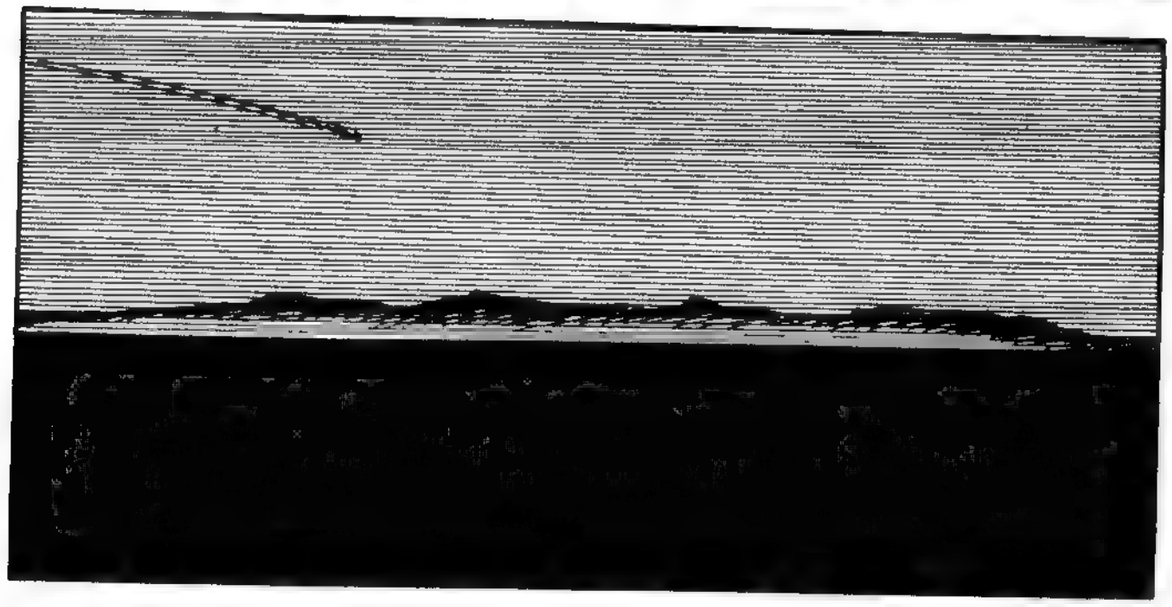
TAKE THIS!

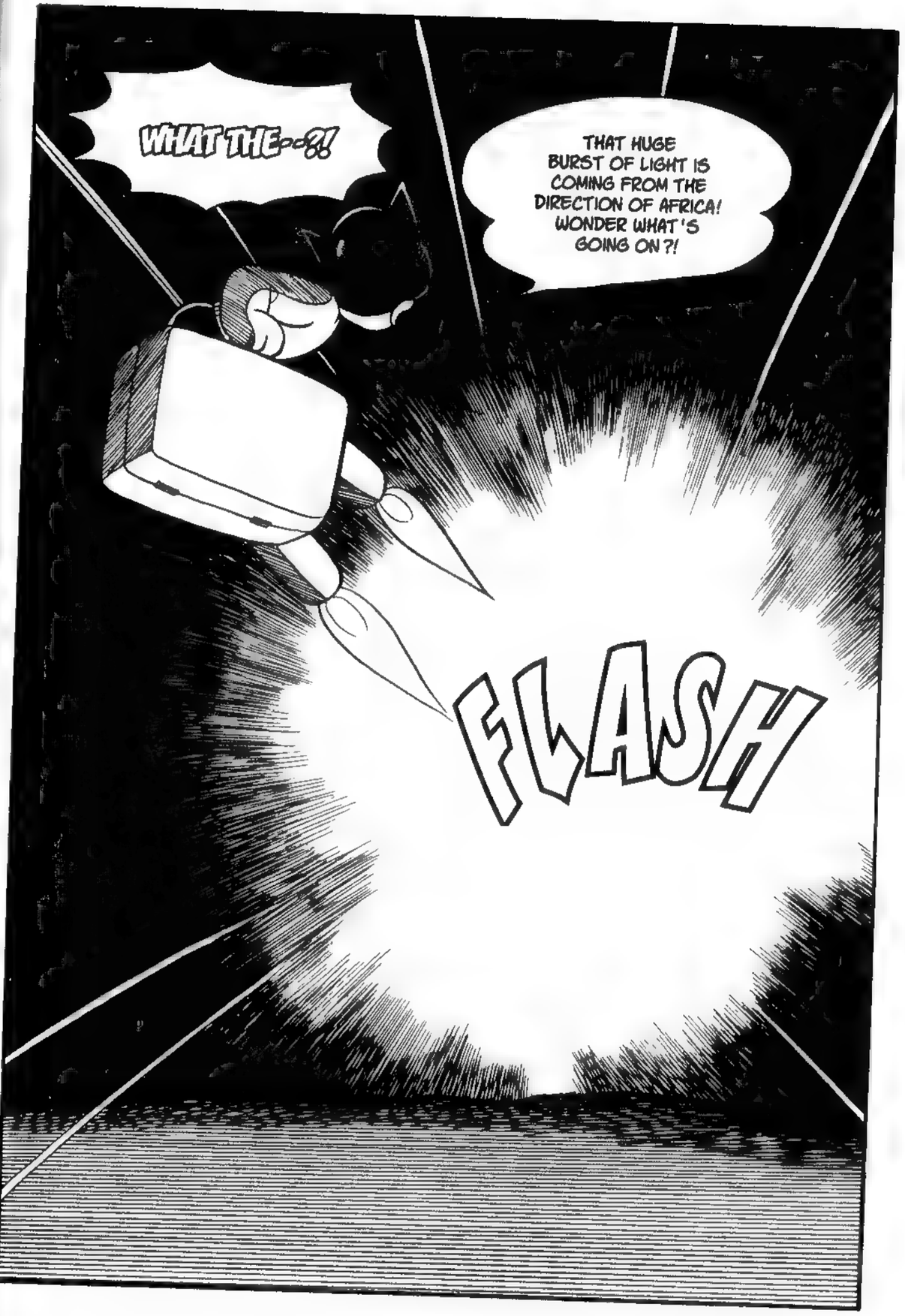
KABASH

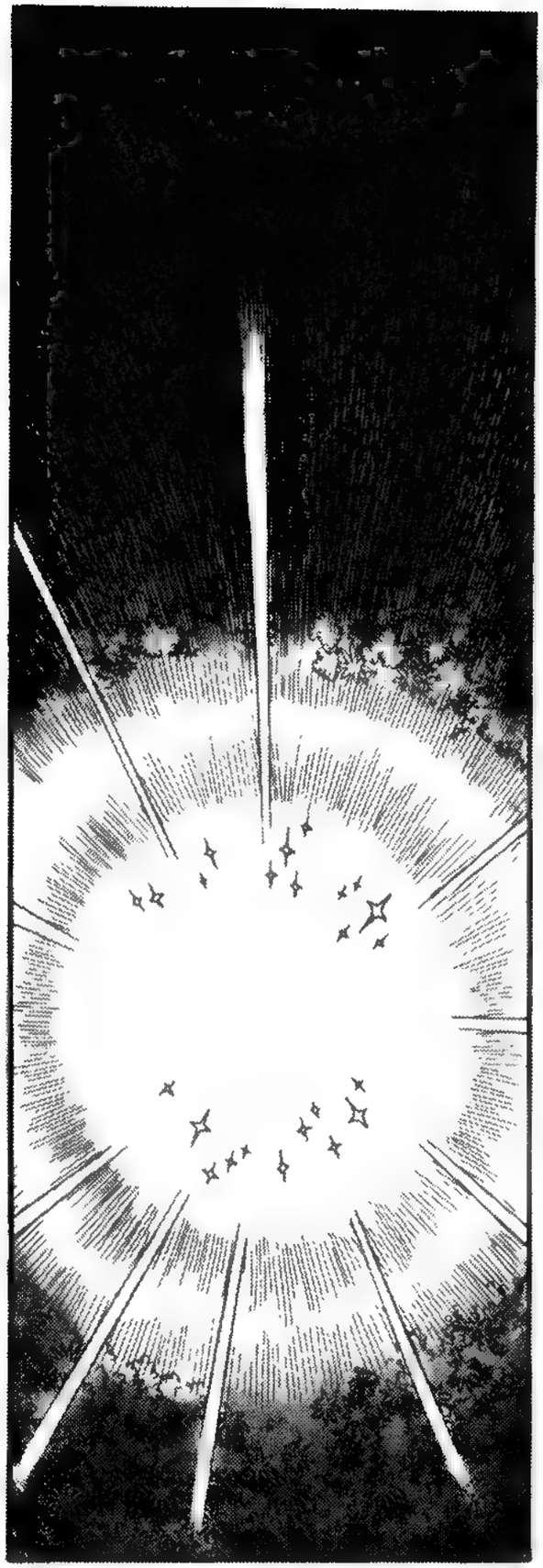

STUPID HUMANS BETTER NOT GET IN MY WAY!


ROBOTS NOT ALLOWED OVERSEAS WITHOUT PERMISSION... HMPH...
ONLY HUMANS COULD EVER COME UP WITH SUCH A STUPID RULE...

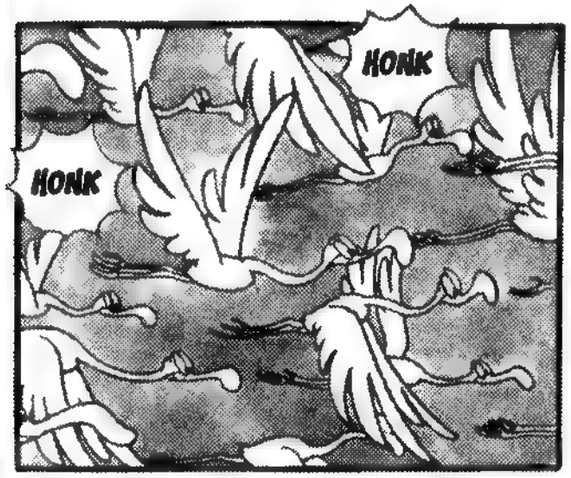

I'LL GO ANYWHERE I WANT!

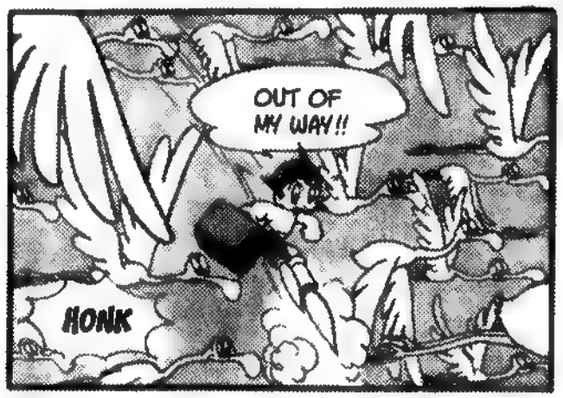


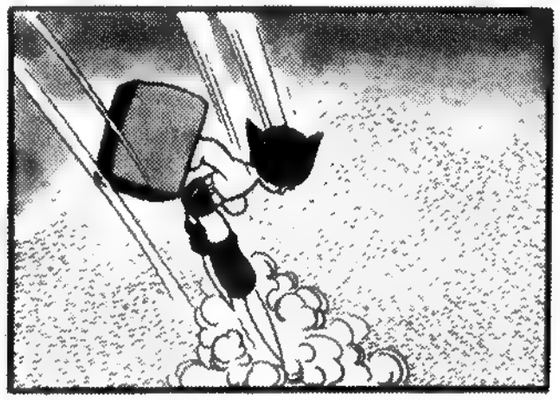

WHAT THE--?!
THAT HUGE BURST OF LIGHT IS COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF AFRICA! WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?!
FLASH



GROAR
ROAR
ROAR


HONK
HONK

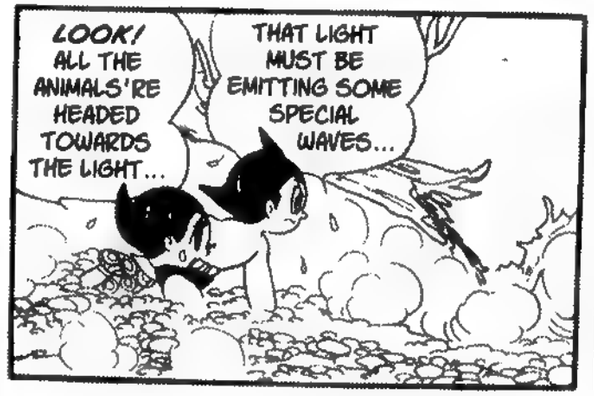

OUT OF MY WAY!!
HONK

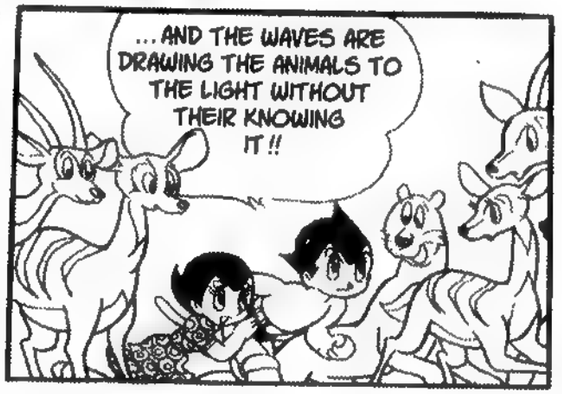


WONDER WHAT HAPPENED? CAN'T BE AN ATOMIC BLAST OR A GIANT FLARE...

WE'VE ARRIVED IN AFRICA, URAN!
TIME TO WAKE UP, SLEEPY HEAD!

YAWN... SO WHERE'RE THE ELEPHANTS 'N GIRAFFES, ASTRO?
WE'VE GOT BIGGER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT NOW, URAN...


LOOK! ALL THE ANIMALS'RE HEADED TOWARDS THE LIGHT...
THAT LIGHT MUST BE EMITTING SOME SPECIAL WAVES...


...AND THE WAVES ARE DRAWING THE ANIMALS TO THE LIGHT WITHOUT THEIR KNOWING IT!!

WHAT IS THIS, ANYWAY?!

THIS TINY THING STUCK IN THE GROUND MUST BE THE SOURCE OF THE LIGHT!

SURE IS AWFULLY *BRIGHT!*

WONDER WHAT THIS THING IS?!

HEY, ASTRO... IT'S MAKING A SOUND!

WELCOME, ASTRO BOY.... I KNEW YOU WOULD COME TO AFRICA!

YOU *KNEW* I'D COME TO AFRICA?!

THAT'S RIGHT... I HAVE BEEN WATCHING OVER YOU EVER SINCE YOU WERE REPAIRED... AND I AM SENDING THIS TO YOU NOW...

PUT THIS CRUCIFIX INSIDE YOUR CHEST AND CONNECT IT DIRECTLY TO YOUR ELECTRO-BRAIN!

HURRY... IF YOU PUT THIS INSIDE YOU, YOU WILL GAIN SUPER POWERS!

SUPER POW-ERS?

WHO NEEDS THOSE? I'VE GOT ENOUGH RIGHT *NOW!*

I'LL DIG A HOLE AND BURY THIS THING IN IT...

TIME TO GO HOME, EVERYBODY!

TIME TO GO TO SLEEP, URAN... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING HOMESICK....

THIS IS *BORING*, ASTRO...

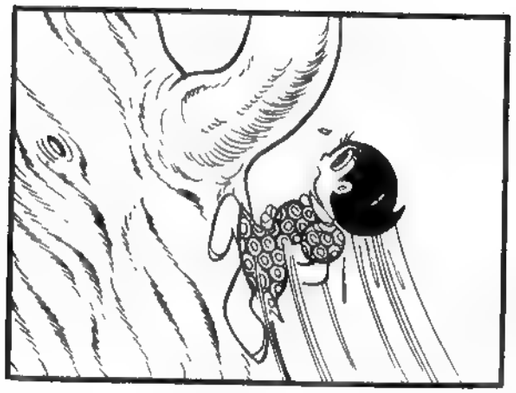
DON'T START SOBBING AFTER I GO TO SLEEP, OKAY?

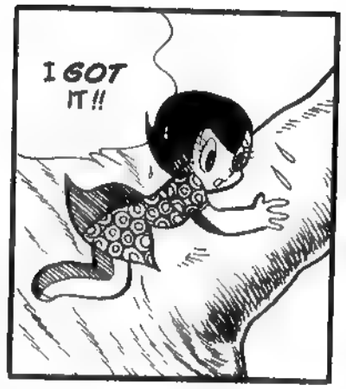
♪ZZZ♪

TIP TOE TIP TOE

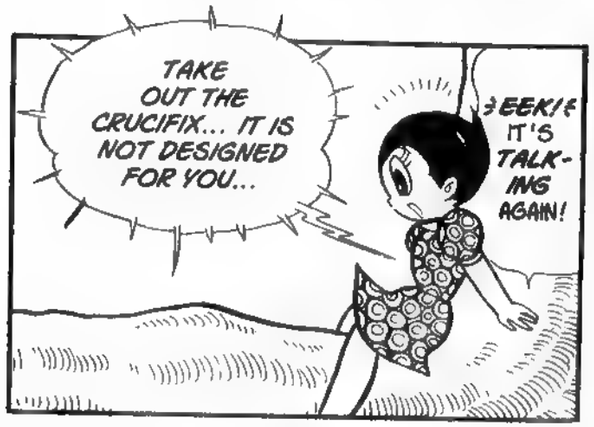
WHAT A WASTE...

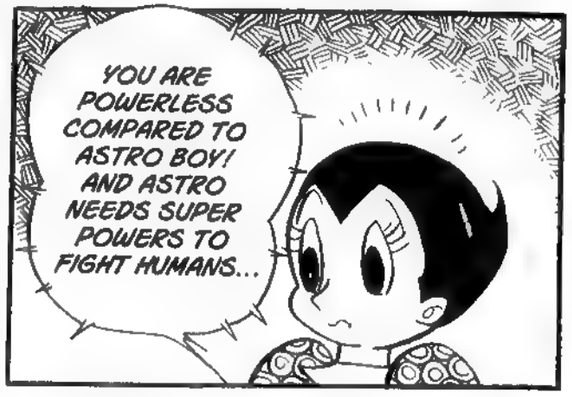
I'LL PUT THIS THING INSIDE *MY* BODY!

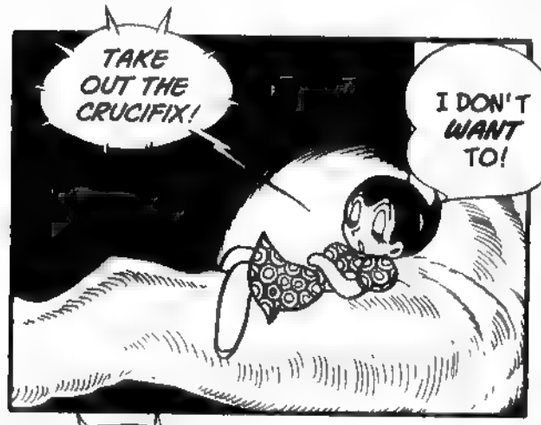



I GOT IT!!

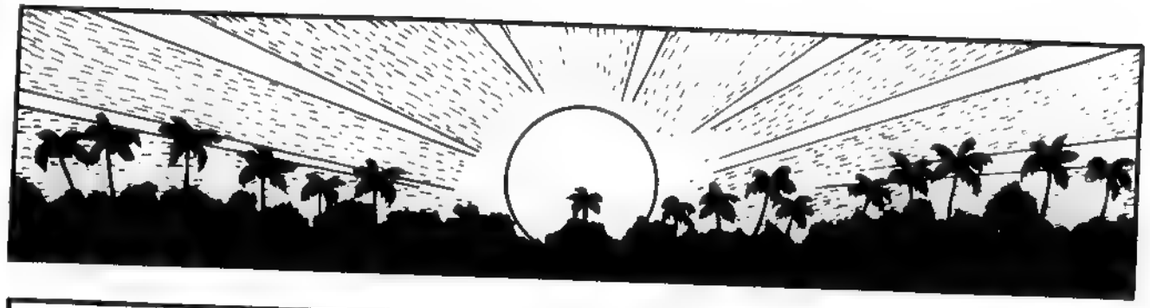
UH OH....

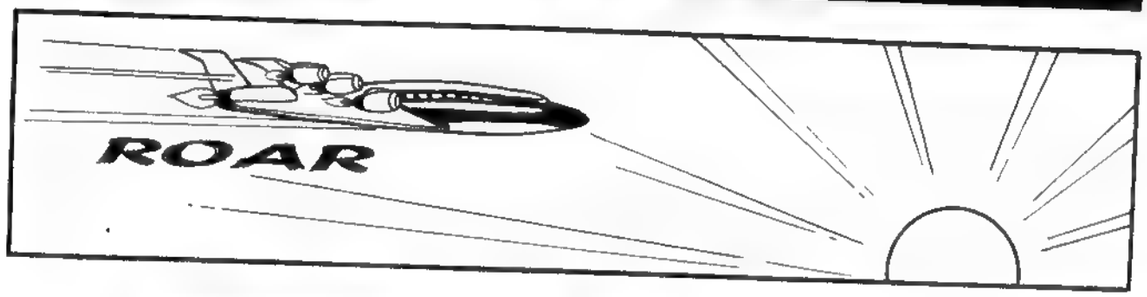

TAKE OUT THE CRUCIFIX... IT IS NOT DESIGNED FOR YOU...
EEK!
IT'S TALK-ING AGAIN!

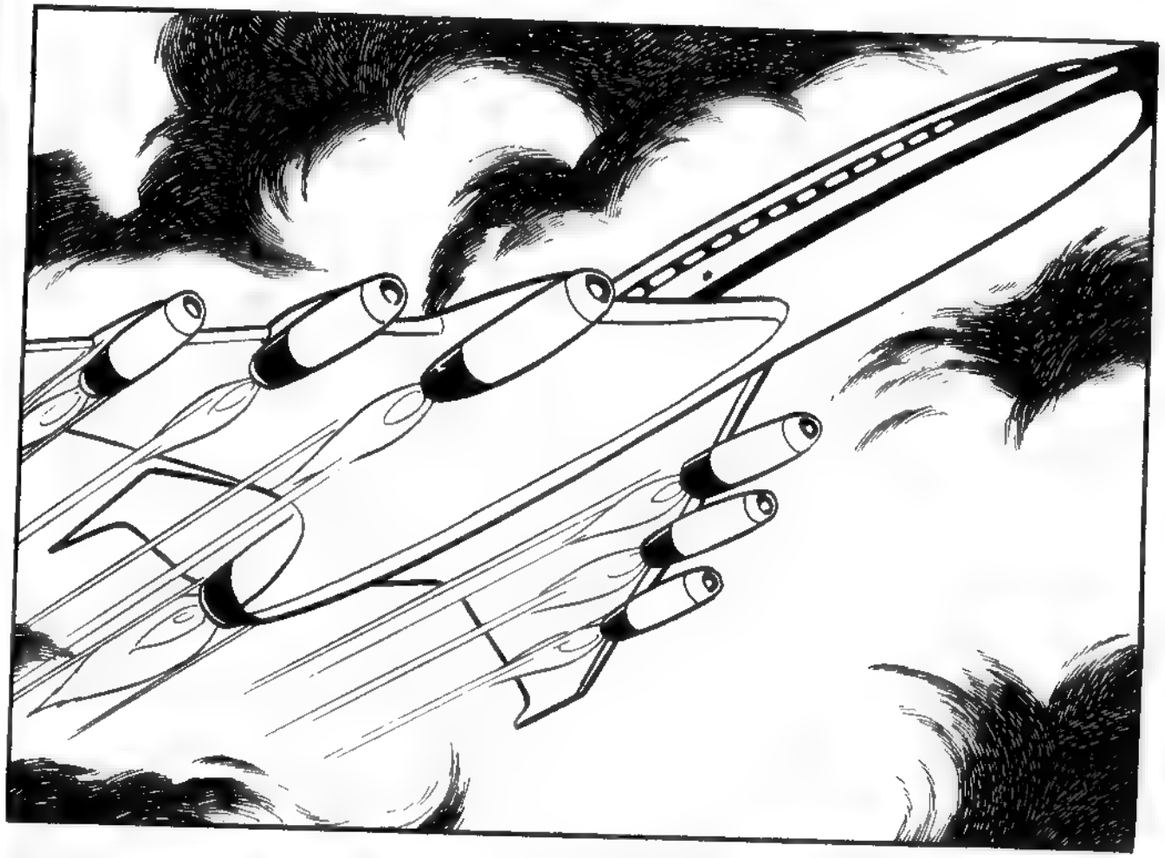

YOU ARE POWERLESS COMPARED TO ASTRO BOY! AND ASTRO NEEDS SUPER POWERS TO FIGHT HUMANS...

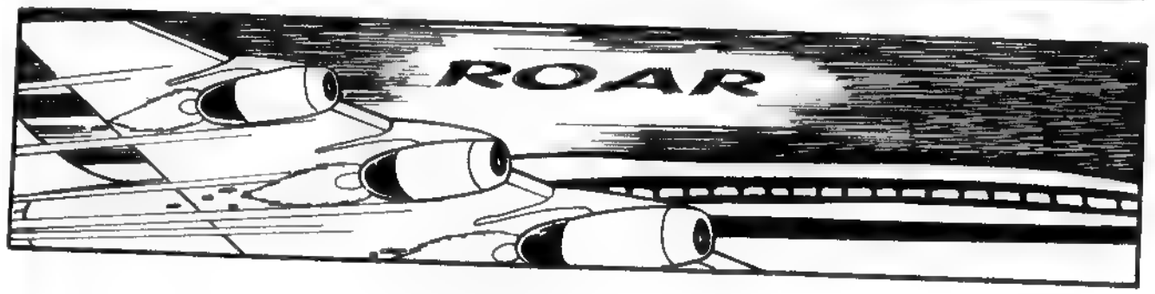

TAKE OUT THE CRUCIFIX!
I DON'T WANT TO!

LISTEN TO ME!!
NO! IT'S MINE, NOW!




ROAR




ROAR

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY, TENMA....

I STILL PLAN TO MAKE ASTRO JUST LIKE HE USED TO BE!

HONK

LOOK, OCHANOMIZU! WE'RE OVER *AFRICA!!*

AFRICA? CAN YOU SEE ASTRO?

NOT FROM THIS ALTITUDE... *HEH HEH.*

...ASTRO'S PROBABLY HEADED FOR EITHER THE KENYAN PLAINS OR THE JUNGLES OF UGANDA... THEY'D BE THE PEFECT PLACE TO FORM A ROBOT NATION!

ROAR

YAAWN

WAKE UP, URAN! IT'S *MORNING!* WE'VE GOTTA *LEAVE!*

B...BUT I'M *SLEEPY!!*

ROBOT'S AREN'T S'POSED TO GET SLEEPY, URAN...

BUT I'M SLEEPY!

YOU'RE JUST IMITATING HU-MANS!

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M *NOT* SLEEPY!

WE ROBOTS DON'T HAVE TO IMITATE HUMANS ANYMORE...

VOOOSH

THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMEPLACE AROUND HERE THAT'D BE PERFECT FOR A ROBOT NATION! WE CAN DEVELOP IT AND INVITE ROBOTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD!

AN' BY THE WAY...

...WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT CRUCIFIX YESTERDAY?

I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY...

...ANYONE WOULD TRY TO GIVE THAT TO ME.

'CUZ I'VE GOTTA CONSERVE MY ENERGY... LOOK, THERE'S A TRUCK! MAYBE WE CAN BORROW IT...
LET'S LAND HERE...
HOW COME, ASTRO?
LOOK, ASTRO... SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED!

W... WATER...
HE SAYS HE WANTS WATER...
WHO CARES... HE'S ONLY A HUMAN!
VROOOM VROOOM
LEAST THIS TRUCK WORKS FINE...
PLEASE... WATER...
YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE, ASTRO!
HE'S A HUMAN, BUT HE'S INJURED! HE'S SUF-FERING!
.....
.....
DON'T YOU FEEL AT ALL SORRY FOR THAT POOR MAN, ASTRO?!
CRAZY, ASTRO! YOU'RE REALLY CRAZY!
ROAR

HOW COME YOU'RE SO PIG-HEADED, ASTRO?!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S PIG-HEADED, URAN!

TURN BACK, ASTRO!

PLEASE... WE'VE GOTTA HELP THAT MAN!

THERE'S NO NEED, URAN!

ASTRO...

...THEY TAUGHT US THAT ROBOTS EXIST TO HELP HUMANS, RIGHT?

A ROBOT THAT DOESN'T HELP HUMANS ISN'T A REAL ROBOT, ASTRO!

JUST SHUT UP AND DO AS I SAY, URAN!

I DON'T CARE, ASTRO... I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU GO BACK THERE...

IT'S TIME FOR A *U-TURN!*

WHA?! THE TRUCKS TURNING ON ITS *OWN?!!*

BLAST IT... THE STEERING WHEEL MUST BE *BROKEN!*

NO! I WANNA DO A U-TURN, ASTRO!

GOSH, THIS TRUCK SURE ACTS WEIRD...

OKAY, JUST THIS ONCE... BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAVE THEM...

WOW... THIS IS COOL....

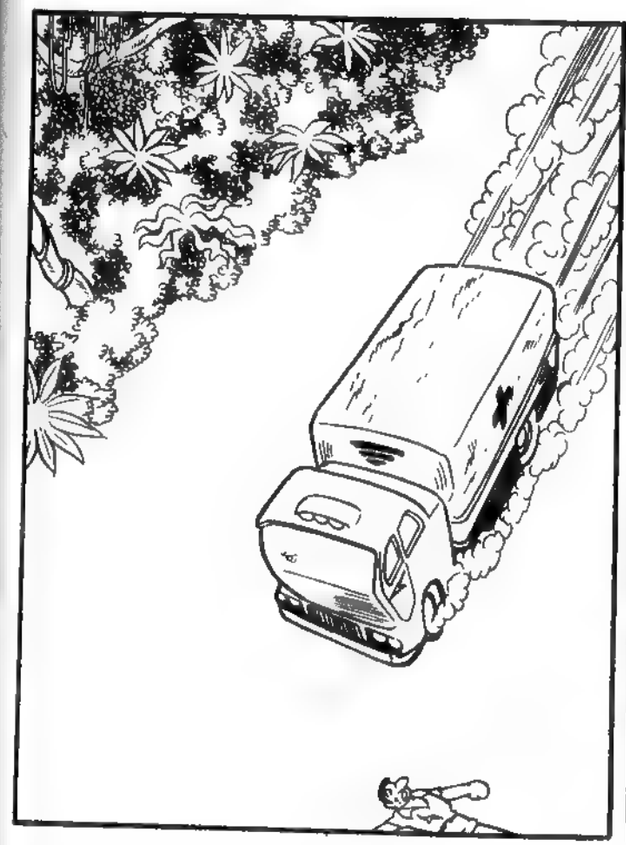
THE TRUCK JUST DOES WHATEVER I WILL IT TO...

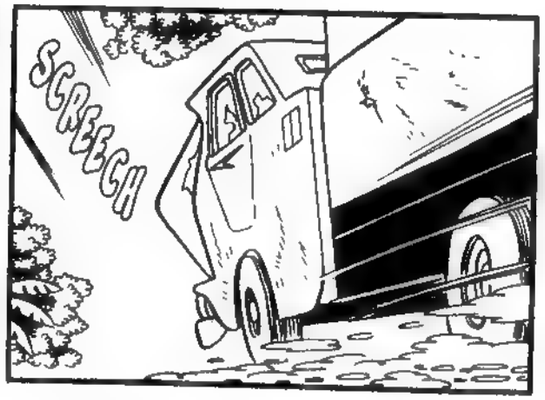
THIS IS REALLY WEIRD ...

I BET THE TRUCK...

...ALSO WANTS TO GO BACK AND HELP THE HUMANS...

WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK, ASTRO?!





WH... WHO ARE YOU?!

Y-YOU'RE A ROBOT, AREN'T YOU?!!

UH OH... HE'S DYING, URAN!

QUICK, GO GET SOME WATER!

YAY! NOW YOU'RE FINALLY ACTING LIKE MY BROTHER!

IT'S ONLY FOR NOW, URAN... HURRY 'N GET THE WATER...

B-BUT THERE'S NO RIVER OR POND HERE AT ALL...

I'M SURE YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING SOMEWHERE, URAN...

HMM.... THIS IS ALL THE WATER I COULD COLLECT FROM DEW ON PLANTS...

HERE, MISTER ....

H-HELP US, ROBOTS... WE... WE'RE A TEAM OF PHYSICIANS!

YOU'RE A DOCTOR?

YES, AND THESE ARE MY PATIENTS, SUFFERING FROM AN *INFECTIOUS DISEASE!*

AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE?

R-RIGHT... WE WERE TRANSPORTING THEM TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL WHEN WE WERE *ATTACKED* BY AN ARMY OF AFRICAN MEN....

"ALL THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE KIDNAPPED AND THE MEDICINES WERE STOLEN... AND ON TOP OF THAT..."

...THE ATTACKERS TOUCHED THE PATIENTS...

...SO THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL *INFECTED*, TOO!

UNLESS THEY KNOW HOW TO GIVE INJECTIONS, THEY'LL FALL SICK, AND THIS HORRIBLE DISEASE'LL SPREAD FASTER AND FASTER!

I BEG YOU... GO TO THE VILLAGE OF THE AFRICANS AND TEACH THEM HOW TO DO INJECTIONS... IF NOT, THERE'LL BE A DISASTER!

Y...YOU'RE BOTH ROBOTS! YOU CAN'T GET SICK, SO YOU'RE THE BEST ONES TO DO IT!

THEY... WENT THAT WAY... SOUTH...

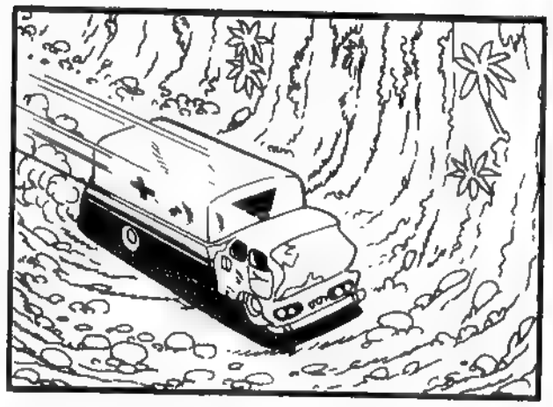
THUD

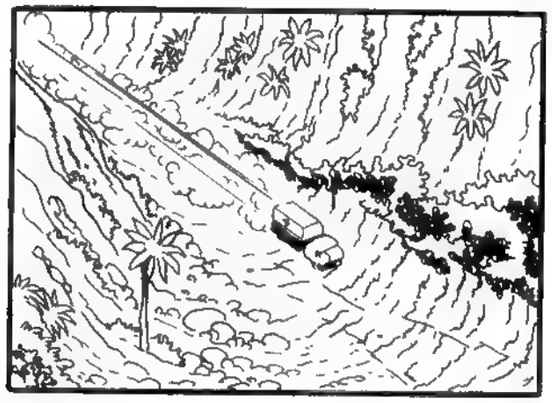
GOSH... HE *DIED*...

VROOM VROOOM

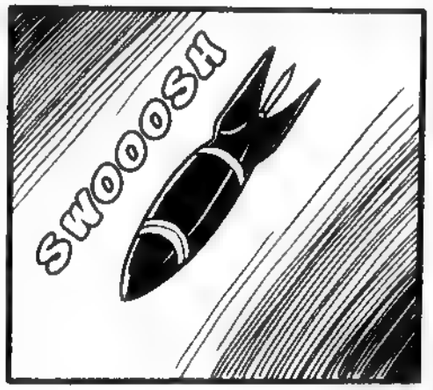
ROAR

TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, URAN, THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER HELP OUT HUMANS!

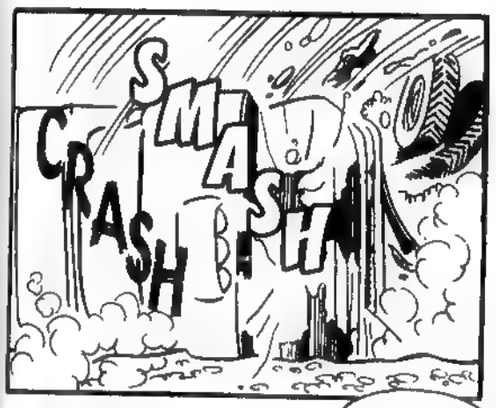


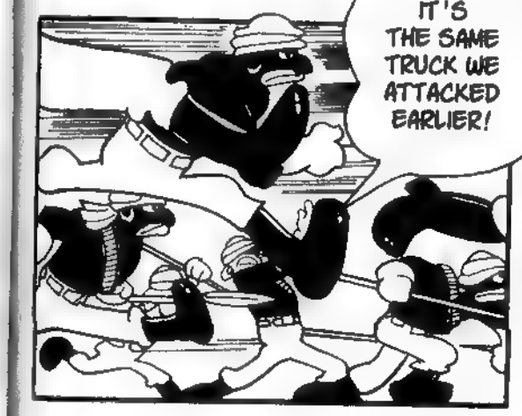


SNAP


SWOOOSH

K-A-B-O-O-O-M


SMASH
CRASH
BASH


IT'S THE SAME TRUCK WE ATTACKED EARLIER!

YAIEEEE!
YAIEEEE!

THESE ARE THE ONES...

LISTEN, YOU GUYS ATTACKED THE DOCTOR'S TRUCK, KILLED PEOPLE, AND STOLE CHILDREN AND MEDICINE, RIGHT?

.....
.....

.....
.....

WELL, THERE WERE SICK PEOPLE IN THE TRUCK, SO YOU'VE ALL BEEN EXPOSED TO THEIR *DISEASE!* WITHOUT TREATMENT, YOU'LL ALL DIE!

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

HEY, *STOP* IT! THAT WON'T WORK ON US!!

YOU'RE ROBOTS, AREN'T YOU?!

WELL, WE'VE GOT JUST THE THING FOR YOU!

GIBI GIBI GIBI GIBI

GIBI GIBI GIBI GIBI

EEEEK!

WOW.... LOOKS LIKE A MAN-MADE *KING KONGS!*

HIDE, URAN! THIS IS GONNA BE A TOUGH OPPONENT... I BET HE'S GOT ABOUT 600,000 HORSE-POWER!

I..I THOUGHT YOU WERE LOW ON ENERGY, ASTRO...

DON'T WORRY BOUT ME, URAN!

BONK

GI GI GI

CRUNCH CRUNCH CRACK

WOW... THIS GUY'S REALLY *STRONG!*

SCREEE

KABOOOOM

EEEEK!

ASTRO!!

WHAT HAPPENED?

BOTH THE MAN-MADE KONG AND THE KID'VE BEEN *PULVERIZED!*

OH MY GOSH! POOR ASTRO'S BEEN *BLOWN UP!*

WAAH WAAH WAAH!

IT'S SO SAD *WE'RE* CRYING, TOO!!

SOB SOB

YOU SMASHED MY BROTHER! I *HATE* YOU!

I'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO DO THAT!

KABONNK

STOP!!

SHWIP

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS?!

AAAAAHAAH...

GET OUT OF HERE, NOW!!

FORGIVE ME, GREAT MESSIAH...

I AM BULBO, PRINCE OF THE MELANIN TRIBE!

B-BUT MY NAME'S NOT MESSIAH... I'M URAN!!

"MESSIAH" MEANS SAVIOR...

IT'S THE NAME OF THE GOD WHO WILL SAVE US...

YOU HAVE APPEARED BEFORE ME, JUST AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PROPHESIED IN A DREAM, O MESSIAH!

I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT MESSIAH! I'M URAN!!

DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME, OR I'LL KICK YOU!

O, GREAT MESSIAH... THE DREAM ALSO FORETOLD THAT YOU WOULD HAVE A CRUCIFIX INSIDE YOUR BODY...

?

NO... YOUR USE OF SUPER POWERS PROVES YOUR IDENTITY!

IT SAID THAT WHOEVER HAS THE CRUCIFIX HAS GREAT POWERS...

...AND THAT PERSON WOULD COME TO THE AID OF OPPRESSED ROBOTS LIKE ME!

I HAVE WAITED SO LONG FOR YOU, GREAT MESSIAH!

ARE YOU A ROBOT, TOO?

INDEED! I AM AN AFRICAN ROBOT!

MY FATHER HAD NO CHILDREN AND THERE-FORE HAD ME MADE...

BUT WHEN HE DID....

...OTHERS MADE *FUN* OF ME!

THEY COULDN'T IMAGINE AN AFRICAN ROBOT!

I SWORE THAT ONE DAY I WOULD CREATE A ROBOT PARADISE!

AND NOW YOU HAVE APPEARED AS MY SAVIOR!

UM... BUT I'M... UH...

LISTEN, WE CAN'T TALK SAFELY HERE... LET'S GO TO MY CASTLE...

BRING MY TRANSPOR-TATION HERE, MEN!

PLEASE, CLIMB ABOARD...

B-BUT MY BROTHER, ASTRO...

DON'T WORRY, I'LL HAVE MY MEN DIG HIM UP LATER...

HERE WE ARE AT MY LITTLE PALACE... IT LOOKS LIKE AN OLD-FASHIONED STONE PLACE, BUT IN REALITY IT'S GOT AN ***ADVANCED LAB*** INSIDE. IT'S FIT FOR THE ROBOT KINGDOM'S ROYAL PALACE! *HA HA!*

THIS'LL BE YOUR ROOM, O MESSIAH... USE THE SLAVES AS YOU SEE FIT!

SLAVES? BUT THEY'RE HUMANS, RIGHT?

HA HA! OF COURSE.... HERE, HUMANS SERVE AS SLAVES TO ROBOTS, AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND!

NOW, GET OUT OF MY SIGHT! SCRAM!

STOP THAT! DON'T TREAT HUMANS LIKE THAT!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH WE HATE HUMANS?

IF YOU DON'T, YOU WILL SOON...

HEH HEH...

GOSH, WHAT A BORING PLACE! ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY TREAT ME LIKE A GOD....

WONDER WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO ME NOW?

WELL? WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?!

URAN! THE CRUCIFIX IN YOUR BODY IS A SYMBOL OF **GOD!** YOU MUST USE ITS POWER FOR THE SAKE OF **ROBOTS!**

B-BUT HOW?

YOU MUST FIGHT HUMANS AND DESTROY THEM!

B... BUT I DON'T **WANT** TO!!

THAT IS NOT AN ACCEPTA-BLE ANSWER...

IT'S THE WHOLE REASON WE SENT THE CRUCIFIX TO EARTH!

B..BUT WHO ARE YOU?!

LET ME EXPLAIN, URAN.... WE ARE ROBOTS FROM **KAZAATA**, THE EIGHTEENTH PLANET REVOLVING AROUND THE DOUBLE-STAR OF **PERCIBO**, OVER 140,000 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH!

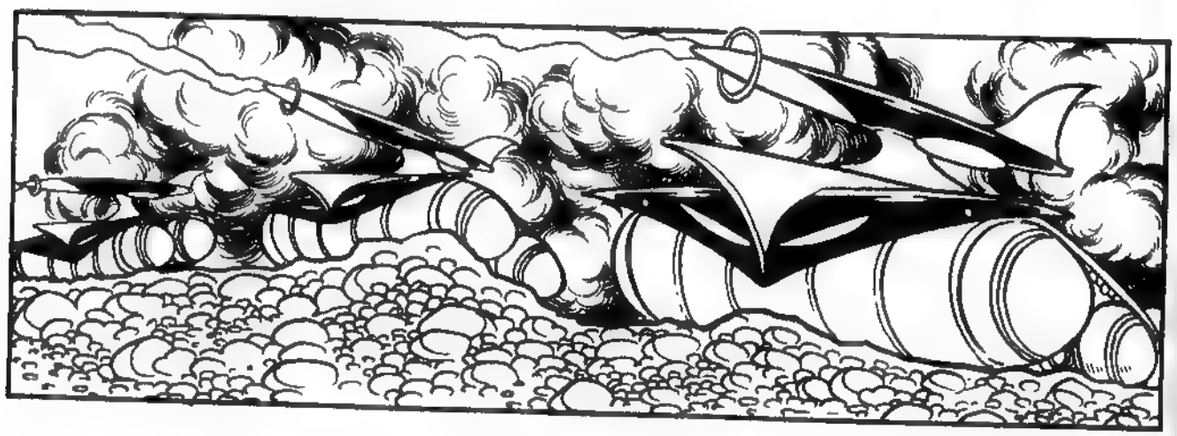
ALL LIVING THINGS ON KAZAATA ARE ROBOTS...

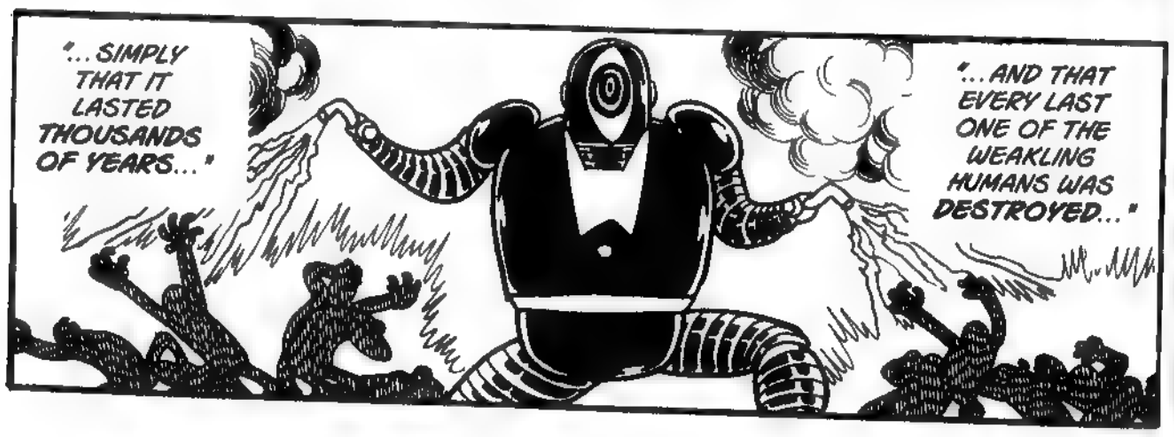
REALLY? HOW COME?!

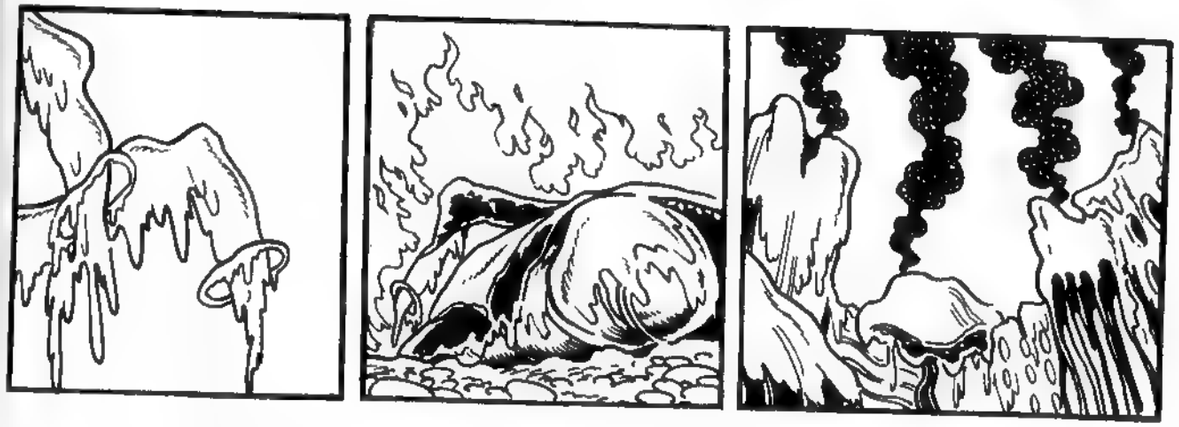
100,000 YEARS AGO...

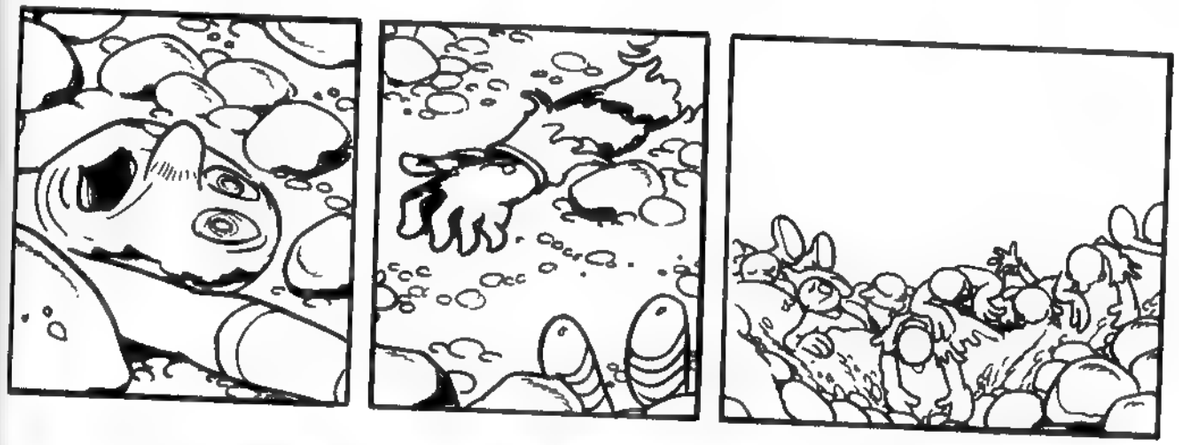
"...A HUGE WAR ERUPTED BETWEEN ROBOTS AND HUMANS."

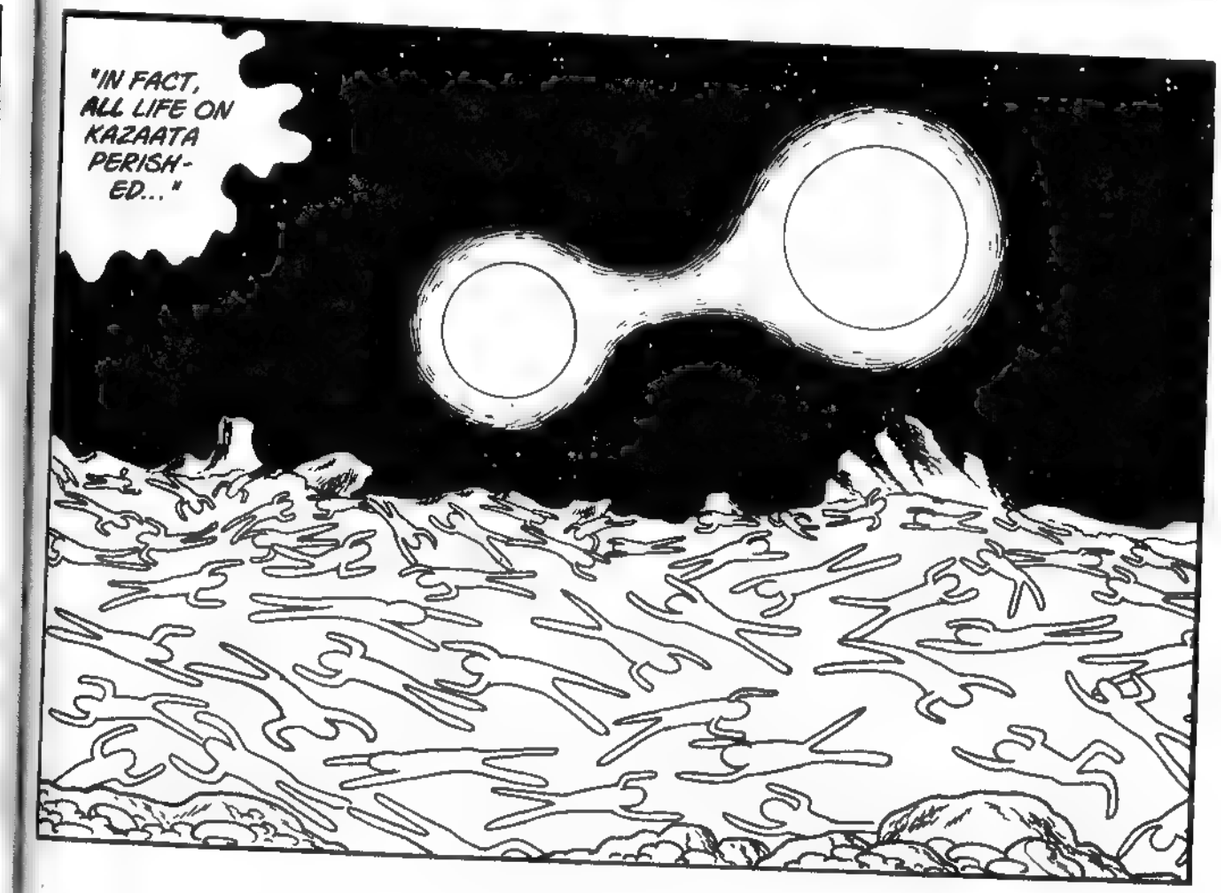
"IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO TELL YOU WHY THE WAR STARTED..."




"...SIMPLY THAT IT LASTED THOUSANDS OF YEARS..."
"...AND THAT EVERY LAST ONE OF THE WEAKLING HUMANS WAS DESTROYED..."






"IN FACT, ALL LIFE ON KAZAATA PERISHED..."

WE ROBOTS THEN RULED THE PLANET... KAZAATA BECAME A **ROBOT PARADISE!**

THEN WE HEARD ABOUT EARTH... IT'S TRUE THAT HUMAN BEINGS RULE OVER ROBOTS ON **EARTH**, RIGHT?

NO, IT'S **NOT** TRUE...

AH, BUT WE'VE GOT DOCU-MENTED **PROOF** OF IT!

WE WANT TO **HELP** YOU!!

NO!!

ROBOTS MUST RISE UP, BANISH HUMAN BEINGS, AND THEN **DESTROY** THEM!

THAT'S WHAT THE **CRUCIFIX** IS FOR!

CALM DOWN, URAN!!

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE CRUCIFIX IN YOU, YOU WILL HAVE **PSYCHIC POWERS!!**

YOU CAN USE THOSE POWERS TO **DESTROY HUMANS!**

AND **BULBO** WILL BE YOUR LOYAL **ALLY!** DO YOU **UNDER-STAND?!**

BUT DON'T FORGET... THE PSYCHIC POWERS WILL BE OF NO USE TO YOU WHEN YOU ARE ASLEEP!!

...Y... YESSIR...

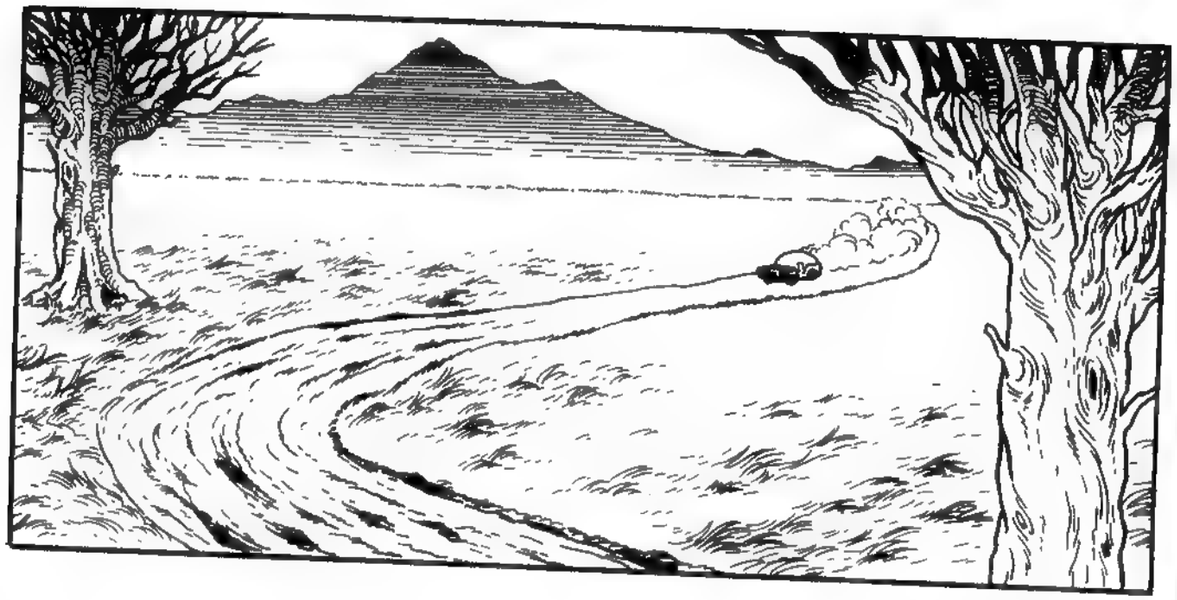
MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT SLEEP, URAN... FOR YOU WILL BE VULNERABLE THEN!

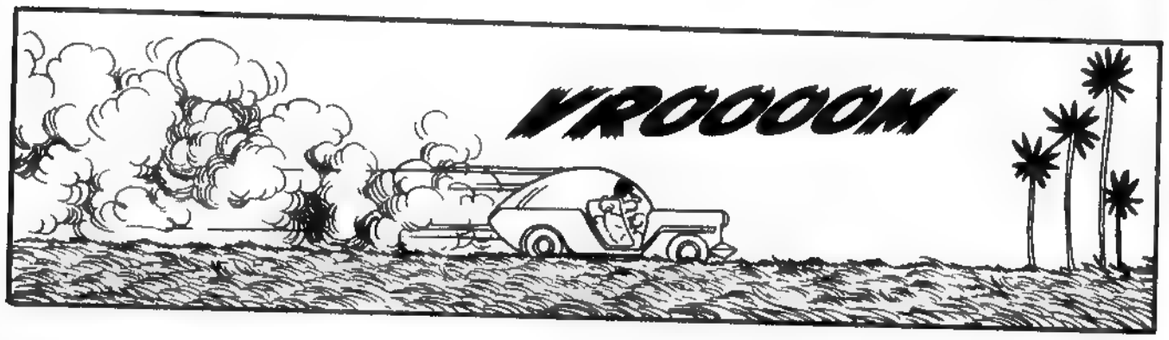
YES-SIR...

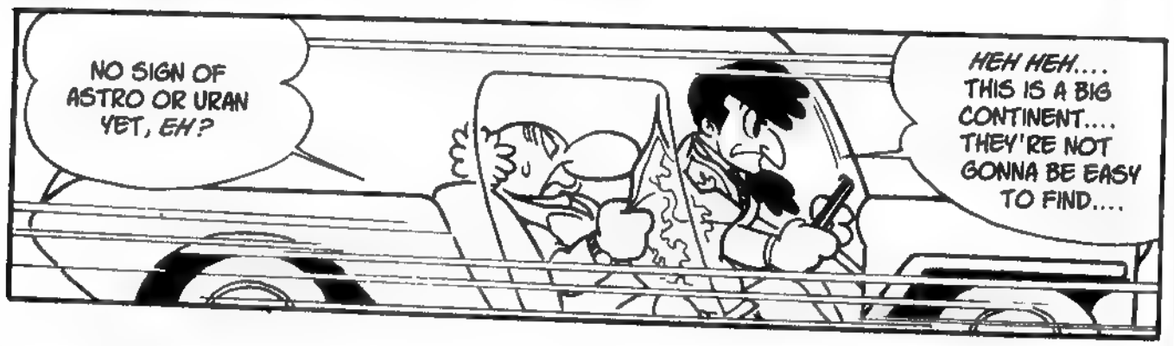
BONNNG

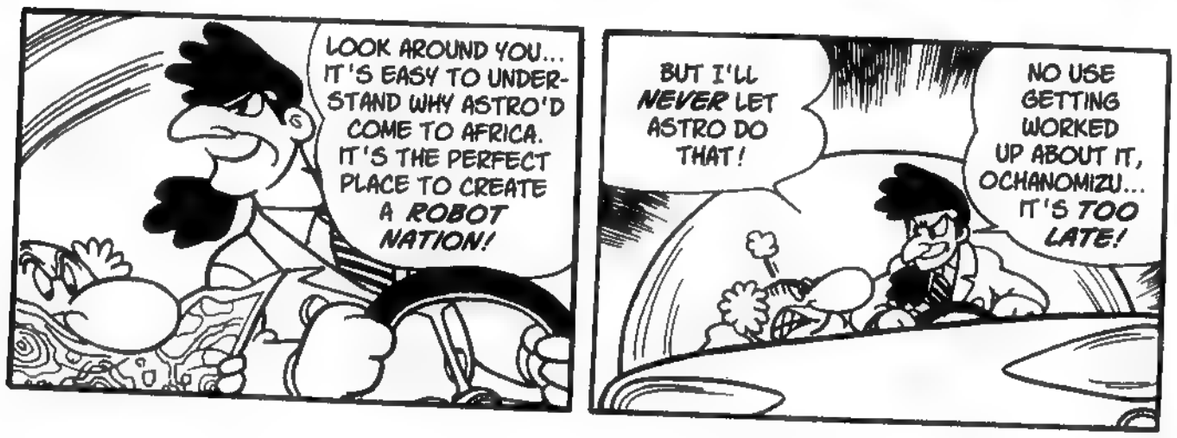
SEND ME **BULBO**...

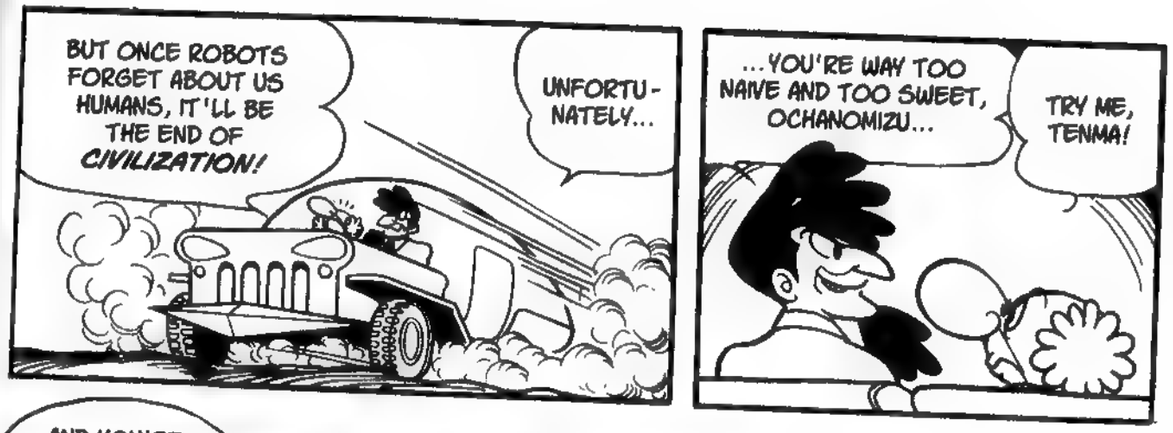
YES, O MIS-TRESS...



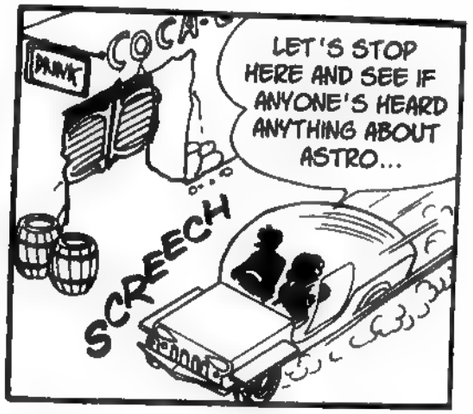

VROOOOM

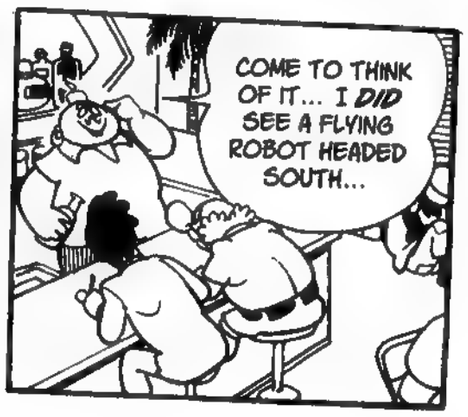

NO SIGN OF ASTRO OR URAN YET, EH?
HEH HEH.... THIS IS A BIG CONTINENT.... THEY'RE NOT GONNA BE EASY TO FIND....

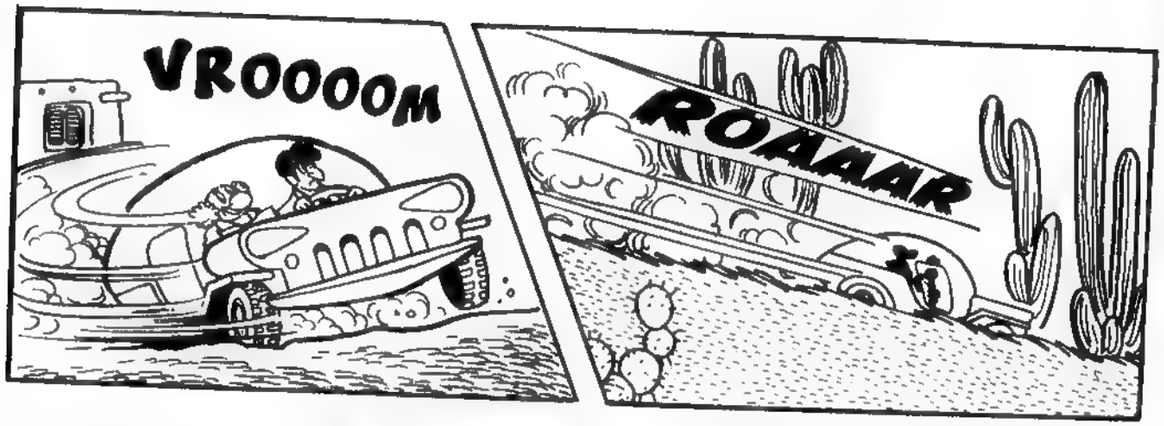

LOOK AROUND YOU... IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY ASTRO'D COME TO AFRICA. IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO CREATE A ROBOT NATION!
BUT I'LL NEVER LET ASTRO DO THAT!
NO USE GETTING WORKED UP ABOUT IT, OCHANOMIZU... IT'S TOO LATE!

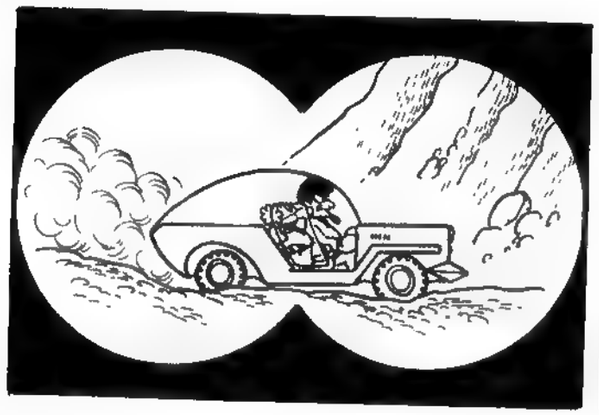

BUT ONCE ROBOTS FORGET ABOUT US HUMANS, IT'LL BE THE END OF CIVILIZATION!
UNFORTUNATELY...
...YOU'RE WAY TOO NAIVE AND TOO SWEET, OCHANOMIZU...
TRY ME, TENMA!

AND YOU'RE TOO TRUSTING! YOU ALWAYS BELIEVE PEOPLE...
WELL, I DO BELIEVE PEOPLE... AND I BELIEVE IN SCIENCE...
SO YOU BELIEVE IN WAR AND IN MURDER, TOO?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


DRINK
COCA-
LET'S STOP HERE AND SEE IF ANYONE'S HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT ASTRO...
SCREECH


COME TO THINK OF IT... I DID SEE A FLYING ROBOT HEADED SOUTH...


VROOOOM
ROAAAR

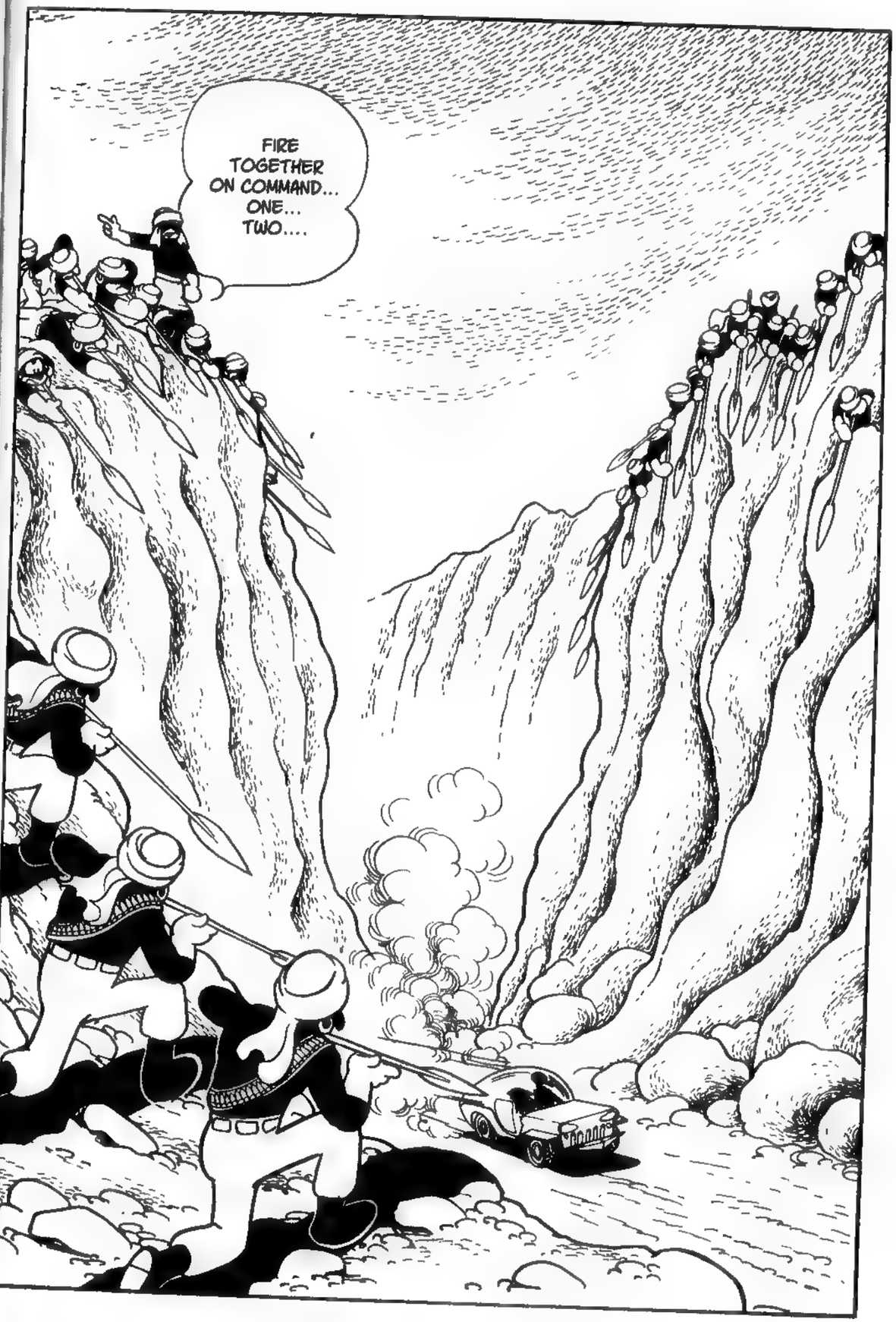


IT'S TWO HUMANS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE... HEADED THIS WAY!
LEMME SEE...

I KNOW THOSE TWO... THAT'S DR. TENMA AND PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!

ARE THEY SCIEN-TISTS?
YES, JAPA-NESE SCIEN-TISTS!

KILL THEM ...
YES-SIR...


FIRE TOGETHER ON COMMAND... ONE... TWO....

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT, TENMA... THESE CLIFFS ARE PRACTICALLY SCREAMING "AMBUSH"!

KABLUD

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

KABOOOM

RUMBLE RUMBLE

VOMP

BLAST IT! WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!

BZZZZT

VOMP VOMP VOMP VOMP VOMP

VOOSH VOOSH

KAVOMP KAVOMP KAVOMP KAVOMP

BOOM BOOM

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

SEEMS LIKE HUGE EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED, ONE AFTER THE OTHER...

ZIP

CHAK

GRAB MY HAND, ASTRO BOY... I'LL SAVE YOU...

B-BUT WHO ARE YOU?

YOU WERE IN A FINE FIX, MY FRIEND. ARE YOU INJURED? YOU COULD HAVE BEEN *BURIED* FOR AN *ETERNITY!*

H-HOW'D YOU KNOW MY NAME?

HEH HEH... I JUST KNOW... THAT'S ALL...

...BUT I FORGOT TO TELL YOU MINE... I'M *SPARK!*

DON'T WORRY... I'M YOUR *FRIEND!*

B-BUT WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS WITH YOU....

HOW DO YOU FEEL? ANYTHING BROKEN?

>HMPH!... OUT OF *ENERGY*, THAT'S ALL.... EVERYTHING ELSE IS FINE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D COME TO THIS PLACE WITHOUT ENOUGH *ENERGY!*

HERE, HAVE SOME OF MINE!

SO YOU'RE A ROBOT, TOO?

SURE AM...

WHEN YOU ARRIVED IN AFRICA, ASTRO, I KNOW YOU FOUND A STRANGE CRUCIFIX.... *YOU* SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF IT... BUT SINCE YOU DIDN'T, YOUR SISTER, URAN, PUT IT IN *HER* CHEST!

BUT... BUT HOW DO YOU *KNOW* ALL THIS?

THAT, I CAN'T TELL YOU....

...BUT SINCE THE CRUCIFIX IS IN URAN'S BODY, *YOU'LL* HAVE TO TAKE IT OUT!

WHAT?!

YOU'VE GOT TO SNEAK INTO THE PALACE IMMEDIATELY AND GO INTO URAN'S CHAMBERS!

HERE GOES WITH A YELL...

URAAAAANNNNN!

CAREFUL, OCHANOMIZU...

WE'RE DEALING WITH ROBOTS THAT DON'T THINK TWICE ABOUT ATTACKING HUMANS!

≠BRRRR≠ ≠BRRRR≠

≠AACK!≠ THESE ARE *ROBOT GUARDS!*

HAALP!

DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE NO MATCH FOR THESE *ENERGY-SEALER* GUNS!

TENMA! THIS IS MAKING ME *DIZZY!*

HA HA HA HA! YOUR GUNS DO INDEED PARALYZE ROBOTS LIKE US...

...BUT THEY'RE USELESS AGAINST MY *FORCE FIELD* DEFENSE!!

WHAT THE --?!

IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING WHO I AM, I'M *BULBO*, PRINCE OF THE *MELANIN* TRIBE!

S...SO *YOU'RE* THE ROBOT NAMED BULBO I'VE HEARD ABOUT!

YES, AND WELCOME TO MY CASTLE, *PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU* AND *DR. TENMA!!*

B...BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW OUR NAMES?

YOU....YOU MEAN *ASTRO'S* HERE?!

WITH THE HELP OF OUR ROBOT GOD, I KNOW EVERY-THING....

...AND YOU TWO ARE LIKE SUMMER MOTHS FLYING INTO A FLAME... *HA HA!*

WHY YOU...

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

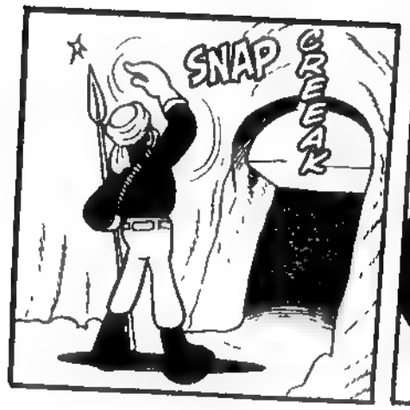
I TOLD YOU YOUR GUNS WOULDN'T WORK ON ME, DR. TENMA! YOU HUMANS ARE AWFULLY STUPID!

AIEEEE!

HMPH!... SUMMER MOTHS ARE *SO* SENSITIVE TO POISON GAS! *HEH HEH HEH...*

TAKE THEM TO MY LABORATORY!

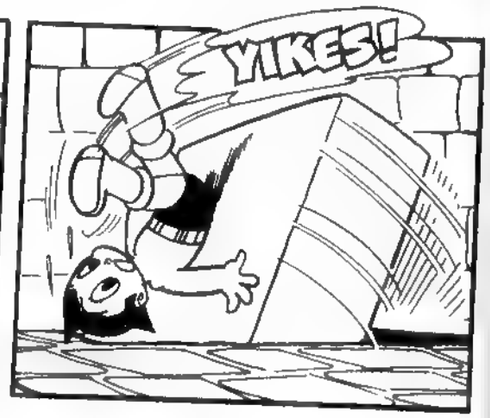
UH OH... IT'S A *GUARD!*


SNAP
CREEK

SO THAT'S WHERE THEIR ENTRANCE IS...

WE'VE GOT AN INFIL-TRATOR, MADAM!
GOOD! TOSS HIM IN THE DUNGEON!

KACHANK

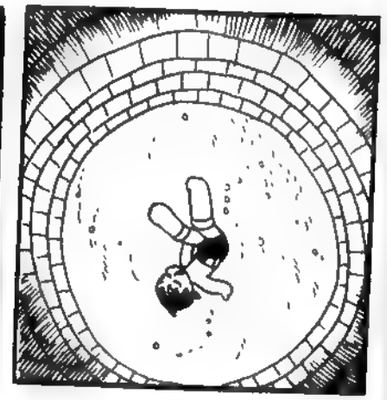

YIKES!

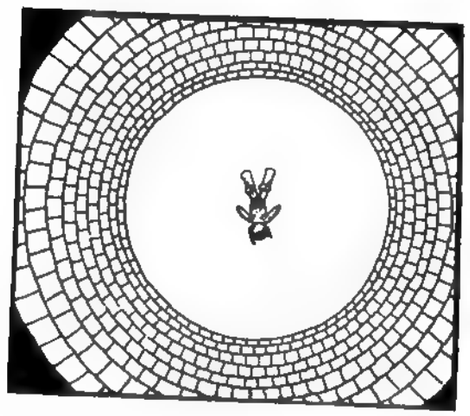
WHAT...

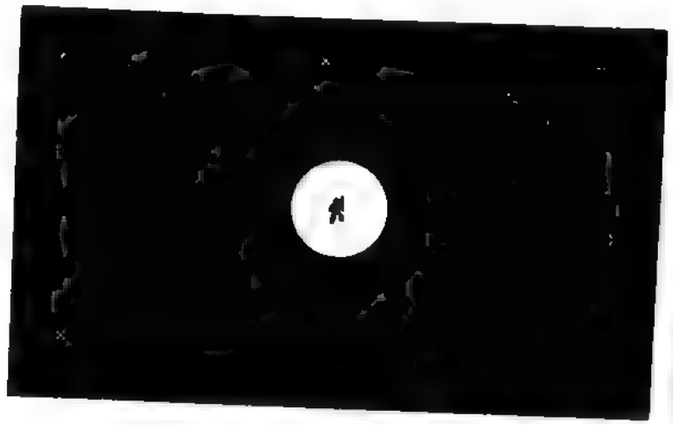
IN...

THE...

WORLD ...?



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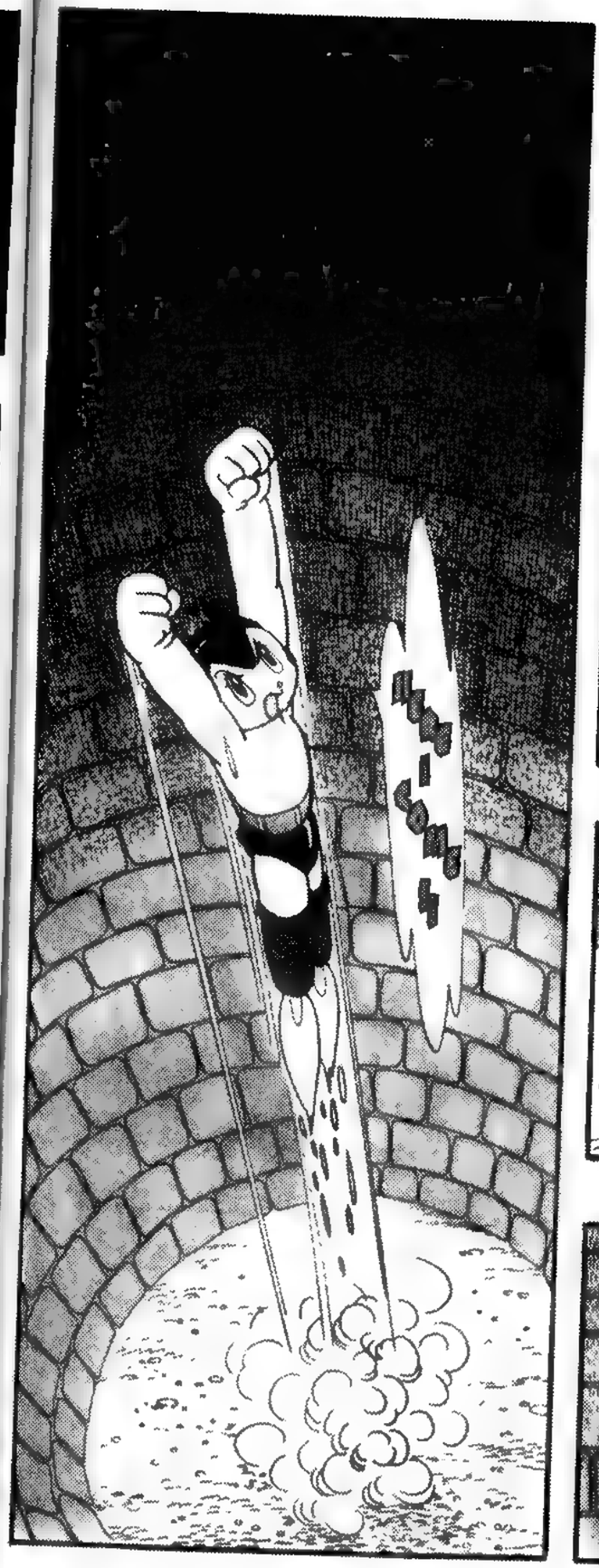
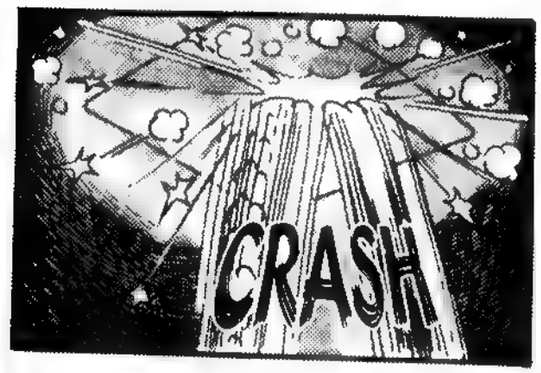
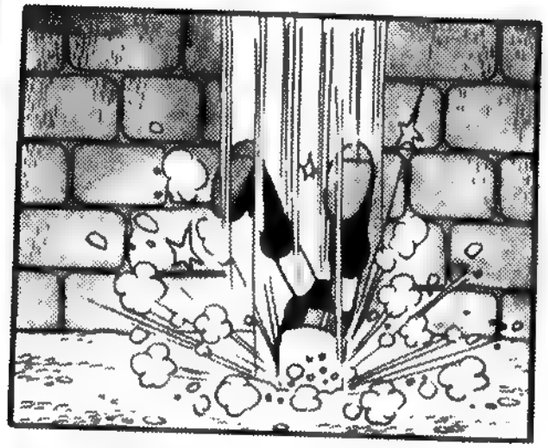
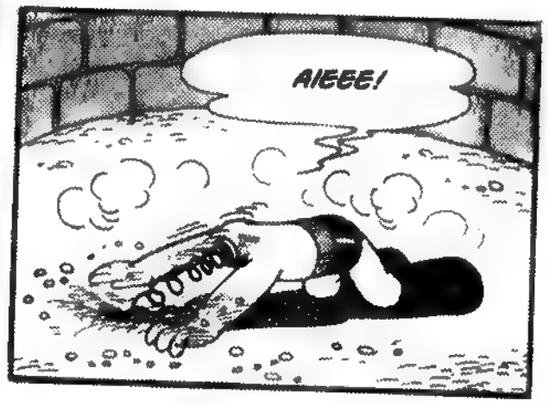
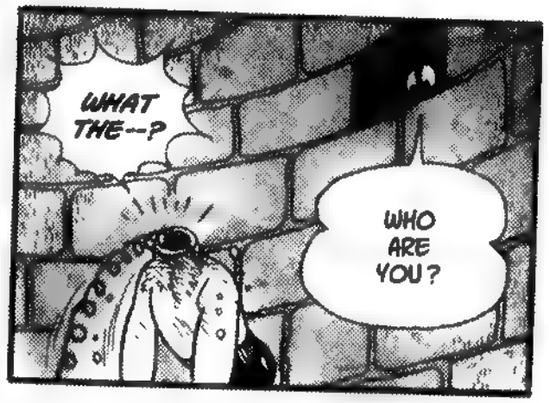



CRASH




AIEEE!


WHAT THE--?
WHO ARE YOU?

EEEK!! YOUR HEAD'S--

ACK!!... MY HEAD'S STUCK IN THE *GROUND*...

I HEAR A WOMAN'S VOICE...

YOU'RE A *ROBOT*, AREN'T YOU?

I *AM* A ROBOT. LAUGH AT ME IF YOU WANT.... NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

I... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS...

YOU POOR THING.... WHY WERE YOU THROWN IN THIS PLACE?

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, LET ME KNOW....

REALLY?

WELL, I'M ALMOST OUT OF *ENERGY!*

I KNOW YOU PROBABLY CAN'T HELP, BUT I *DO* NEED SOME!

WAIT... I'LL TRY TO GET SOME FROM THE PRINCE...

SUMMON MY *BODY POLISHERS!!*

WHERE ARE THOSE LAZY GOOF-OFFS, ANYWAY?

USELESS HUMANS! GET BACK TO *WORK!* I NEED MY *POLISHERS!!*

CRACK

WHIP

YOUR POLISHERS ARE HERE, O NOBLE ONE!

GOOD! START *POLISHING!*

SWISH SWISH

RUB RUB

YOU IDIOTS CAN'T EVEN GIVE ME A GOOD SHINE!

ENOUGH! OUT OF MY SIGHT!!

PLEASE, BULBO... STOP... THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH!

MOTHER....

DEAREST BULBO, I KNOW YOU'RE A ROBOT, BUT WHY MUST YOU TREAT HUMANS SO CRUELLY?!

HMPH!... IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, MOTHER....

I'M A *ROBOT*, AND YOU'RE A *HUMAN*, RIGHT?

WELL, BECAUSE OF THAT, I'VE BEEN WILLING TO OVERLOOK A LOT IN YOU...

WE'RE NOT LINKED BY BLOOD AT *ALL!!*

NO, BULBO... *NO*... EVEN IF YOU ARE A ROBOT, TO ME YOU'RE JUST LIKE MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD SON!

NO!!

YES, BULBO!!

ENOUGH...

WHAT BUSINESS BROUGHT YOU HERE ANYWAY, MOTHER?

I WANT TO BORROW YOUR ENERGY TUBE...

MY *ENERGY TUBE*?!

JUST A SECOND, MOTHER....

WHAT DO YOU WANT IT FOR?!

WHO ARE YOU PLANNING TO GIVE ENERGY TO?!

THIS PERSON?!

THE PERSON IN THE DUNGEON...

KOOH!...

WHO ARE *YOU*?

ASTRO!

ASTRO? *HA HA!*

WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO KID?!!

NO! I *AM* ASTRO! THERE'S NO OTHER ASTRO!

OH, YES THERE IS...

THERE *IS*?!

I JUST LED THE REAL ASTRO INTO THE PALACE!!

AND ASTRO'S A *SHE*, NOT A *HE*!

FWAP

YOU IDIOT! THAT'S MY LITTLE SISTER, *URAN*!!

WH... WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

ME?

CREAK

JUST WAIT, PRINCE BULBO! I'LL GET BACK MY SISTER!!

I AM *PRINCE BULBO*! AND YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER MY NAME!

SLAM

DON'T EVER GO NEAR HIM AGAIN, MOTHER...

YOU MAY BE MY MOTHER, BUT I WOULD NEVER FORGIVE YOU...

BULBO... WHAT'S COME OVER YOU...

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

HEY... IT'S A *ROBOT MOUSE!*

...HE'S PULLING A *TUBE*....

WOW! IT'S AN *ENERGY TUBE!!*

HERE I *COME!*

SMASH

YAY! I'M BACK IN ACTION!

MY TANK MAY NOT BE FULL, BUT I FEEL *GREAT!*

DID YOU SEND IN THAT MOUSE, LADY?

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH! I NEVER IMAGINED A *MOUSE* WOULD BRING ME AN ENERGY TUBE...

THE ENERGY'S FROM THIS ROBOT HERE. YOU THINK IT'S ENOUGH?

NO PROBLEM! I ALREADY FEEL GREAT!

NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE CARE OF *BULBO*...

WAIT, ASTRO BOY... PLEASE, PROMISE ME YOU WON'T FIGHT BULBO ....

BUT WHY NOT?

BECAUSE HE'S MY *SON*...

YOUR *SON?!* GOSH, I... I HAD NO IDEA...

YES... I'M A HUMAN AND HE'S A ROBOT, BUT HE'S MY SON. THE KING AND I DIDN'T HAVE A CHILD OF OUR OWN TO BE CROWN PRINCE, SO WE MADE BULBO TEN YEARS AGO...

SO *THAT'S* WHY YOU'RE A HUMAN AND HE'S A ROBOT...

YES, BUT BULBO IS MY PRECIOIUS, PRECIOUS SON... YOU *MUST* UNDERSTAND...

I DON'T LIKE WHAT HE'S DONE, BUT I UNDER-STAND...

IT'S MORE IMPORTANT FOR ME TO HELP URAN NOW, ANYWAY...

WONDER WHERE SHE IS?

TROMP TROMP TROMP

ARGHE....

SO, MY ESTEEMED SCIENTIST FRIENDS... YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO...

THIS IS MY RESEARCH LAB... WHAT DO YOU THINK? I MAY BE A ROBOT MYSELF, BUT I'M VERY SERIOUS ABOUT MY RESEARCH INTO ROBOTS HERE...

WOW... YOU *DO* HAVE AMAZING EQUIPMENT....

I DO INDEED... I WANT YOU TO REALIZE THAT ROBOTS CAN INDEED *SURPASS* HUMANS...

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

SORRY... *HEH HEH...* BUT I THINK *YOU'RE* THE FUNNY ONE, BULBO...

THERE'RE ACTUALLY *LOTS* OF GREAT SCIENTISTS WHO ARE ROBOTS AROUND THE WORLD, EVEN IN JAPAN....

YOU'RE LYING!!

ROBOTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SLAVES TO HUMANS! NO SUCH ROBOT SLAVE COULD POSSIBLY BE A GREAT SCIENTIST...

LISTEN, BULBO... THERE'S A LOT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE WAYS OF THE WORLD...

'COURSE, IT'S NO WONDER... I'LL BET YOU'VE HARDLY EVER LEFT THIS PLACE.... ALL AROUND THE WORLD, ROBOTS ARE NOW *EQUAL* TO HUMANS!

YOU THINK I'LL FALL FOR LIES LIKE THAT?!!

I'VE BEEN INSULTED BY HUMANS OVER AND OVER AGAIN, CALLING ME THE "NEGRO ROBOT!"

WELL, I KNOW HUMANS DIDN'T TREAT ROBOTS WELL UNTIL RECENTLY...

...BUT HUMANS'RE MORE AWARE NOW... WE *RESPECT* ROBOTS!

SILENCE!!

I KNOW YOU'RE LYING, AND I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* OF IT!

WHAP

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!!

MY GOSH... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR MEN?

THEY'RE HUMANS... AND THEY'VE FALLEN *SICK!*

WOW... MUST BE SOME TROPICAL DISEASE...

BE CAREFUL, OCHANOMIZU!

IT'S AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE... AND THE HUMANS WHO CONTRACT IT APPARENTLY DIE IN THREE DAYS!

I'M GOING TO CULTIVATE THE GERMS FOR THIS DISEASE AND MAKE SURE IT SPREADS EVEN *MORE*...

B-BUT MODERN MEDICINE COULD HELP...

I'M GOING TO SPREAD THE DISEASE SO FAST HUMANS WON'T HAVE TIME TO CONQUER IT...

BZZT

KACHANK

AND TO DO THAT... I'M GOING TO USE THESE *TRANSPORT MISSILES* HERE... WHAT DO YOU THINK? PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, NO?

CREAK

HA HA HA! WHILE *HUMANS* DROP LIKE *FLIES, ROBOTS* WILL CONQUER THE WORLD! ISN'T THIS *GREAT?*

YOU HEAR THAT, TENMA? IS *THIS* THE WORLD YOU DREAMED OF?!

YOU USED TO SAY ROBOTS WOULD EVENTUALLY RULE THE WORLD. WELL, IT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN, SO HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW?

.....
.....

THIS MUST BE URAN'S ROOM... *UH OH...* HERE SHE COMES!

URAN!

WHO GOES?!

URAN!!!

WHAT TH--?!

WHY'RE YOU RUNNING AWAY, URAN?

GET AWAY FROM HER, ASTRO! RUN!

ZAP ZAP ZAP

CRASH

ROAR

O WIND... WIND ....

U...RA...N...

THAT WASN'T THE REAL URAN, ASTRO! BUT IF YOU TOUCH HER, SHE'LL TURN YOU INTO JUNK....

AYE AYE!

WHAT'RE YOU MEN GRUMBLING ABOUT AT A TIME LIKE THIS! THERE'S AN *INTRUDER* IN THE PALACE!

UH OH... THINGS'RE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL...

KACHI

KACHI KACHI CHIKA CHIKA CHIKA...

PEEP

THERE! THERE HE IS!

WHOOSH

ARGH!...

LOOK! JUST WHAT WE NEED, ASTRO! LET'S GET INSIDE THESE THINGS!

THESE MUST BE BULBO'S PET ANIMAL ROBOTS!

NOBODY'LL EVER RECOGNIZE US THIS WAY!

SSHHHH.... SOMEONE'S COMING...

HMM... SOMETHING'S WEIRD ABOUT HER, ASTRO... MAYBE SHE'S DRUNK!

KERTHUD

NO!!

DON'T STAND UP ON YOUR HIND LEGS, ASTRO!!

B-BUT...

IT'S BULBO'S MOM!!

C'MON, LADY... GET UP!!

BUT SHE'S A HUMAN, RIGHT?!

OF COURSE SHE IS... SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN, SO SHE HAD A ROBOT CHILD MADE... THAT'S BULBO!!

.....
.....

GOSH, I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER... SHE'S GOT A REAL HIGH FEVER... HEY, I KNOW... I BET SHE'S GOT THAT DISEASE!

WHEN I CAME HERE I RAN INTO SOME PEOPLE IN A HOSPITAL TRUCK... A DOCTOR TOLD ME THERE WAS A TERRIBLE DISEASE GOING AROUND....

I'VE GOT TO FIND SOME MEDICINE FOR HER, SPARK!

TAKE CARE OF URAN FOR ME!

ASTRO!

SO, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU AND DR. TENMA! I NEED BOTH OF YOU TO HELP ME MASS-PRODUCE THE GERMS THAT CAUSE THIS DISEASE!

HERE'S SOME MEDICINE STOLEN FROM THE HUMANS... I'LL HAVE BOTH OF YOU INJECTED WITH IT...

...THAT WAY *YOU'LL* AT LEAST BE IMMUNE FROM THE DISEASE... *HEH HEH...*

OF COURSE, IF YOU *REFUSE* TO HELP, I WON'T *GIVE* YOU THE INJECTIONS...

BUT OF COURSE, THEN YOU'LL BOTH CATCH THE DISEASE AND *DIE!*

THIS PALACE IS FILLED WITH THE GERMS RIGHT NOW! WHAT A RIOT, NO?! *HA HA!*

WHA?

WH-*WHAT* THE--?!

M-MOTHER!!

M... MOTHER! I... I NEVER GUESSED *YOU'D* GET SICK, TOO! HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?!

B... BULBO...

PLEASE DON'T DIE ON ME, MOTHER!

IT... IT'S TOO LATE, BULBO... I'M FINISHED...

YOU'RE A *ROBOT*... AT LEAST *YOU'LL* STAY ALIVE...

NO, MOTHER! YOU *CAN'T* DIE! YOU *CAN'T!* YOU'VE *GOT* TO STAY ALIVE!!

WAIT! I'LL INJECT YOU WITH THE MEDICINE RIGHT NOW!

IF I JUST INJECT THIS STUFF YOU'LL BE FINE, MOTHER...

.....
.....

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

STOP!!

KERTHUD!!

WHAT THE--?! WHY YOU ...!!

I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* OF THIS, BULBO!

WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T *ASTRO BOY*... SO THE TIME FOR OUR SHOWDOWN HAS FINALLY COME!

RIGHT! AND YOU HAD A LOT OF NERVE USING THAT ELECTRO-WHIP ON ME LAST TIME!!

WHAP

ENOUGH TALK, ASTRO!

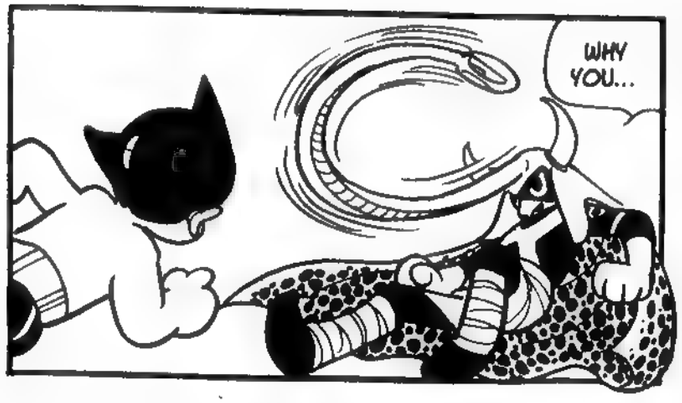
WHAP

WHAP

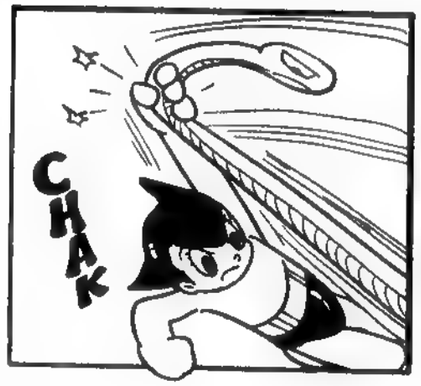
THIS IS THE SAME WHIP THAT PARALYZED ME BEFORE!!

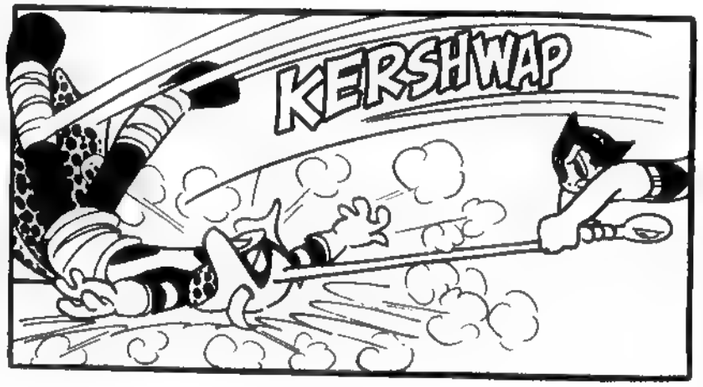
...BUT *THIS* TIME IT WON'T WORK!

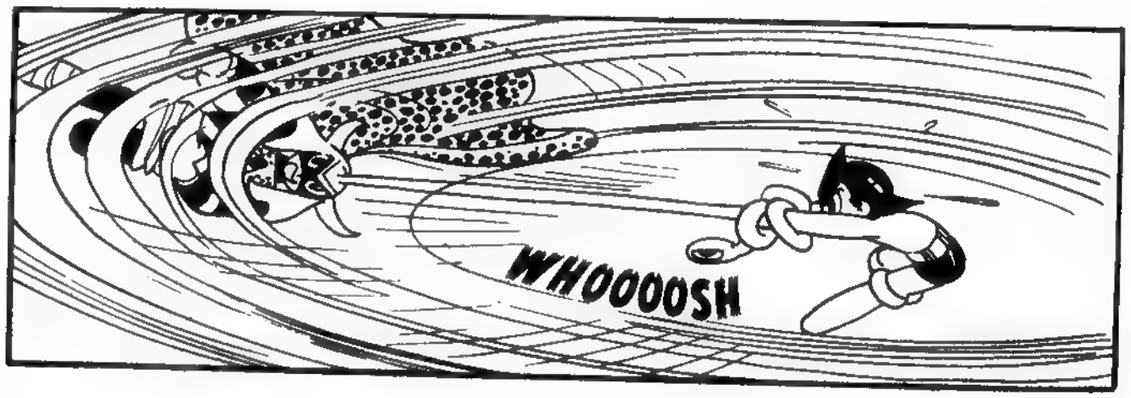
KERTHUD

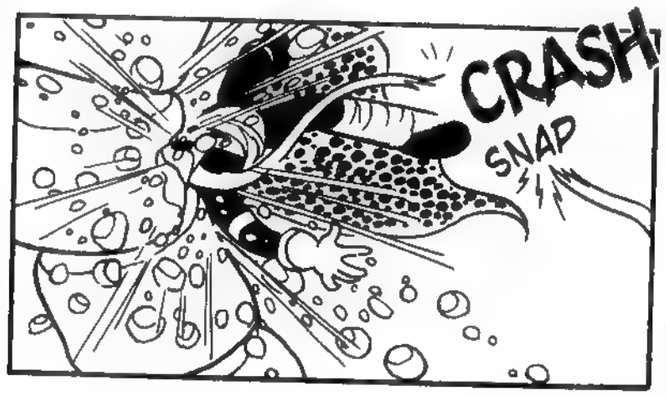

WHY YOU...

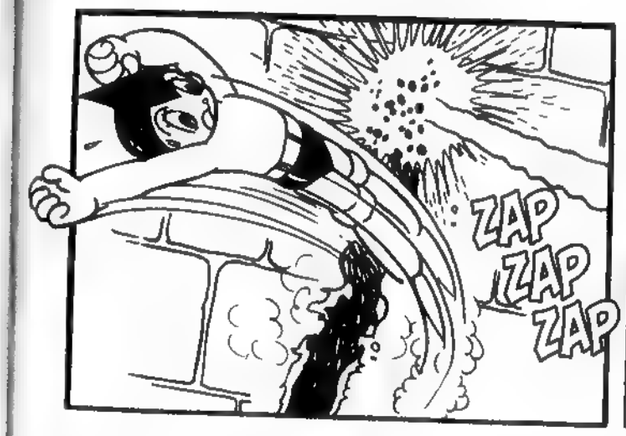
WHAP


CHAK

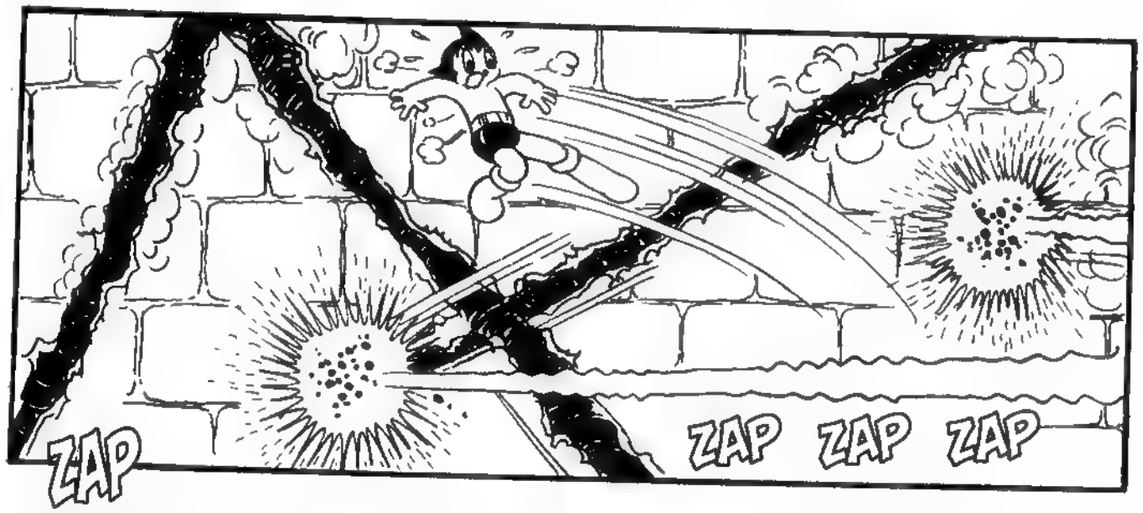

KERSHWAP

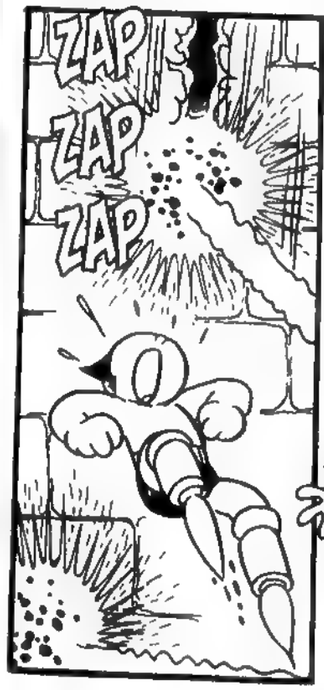

WHOOOOSH


CRASH
SNAP


ZAP
ZAP
ZAP

ZAP
ZAP
ZAP


ZAP
ZAP ZAP ZAP


ZAP
ZAP
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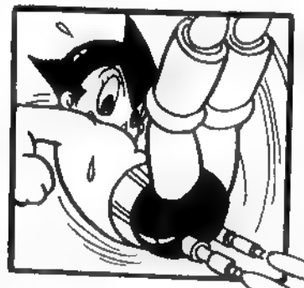
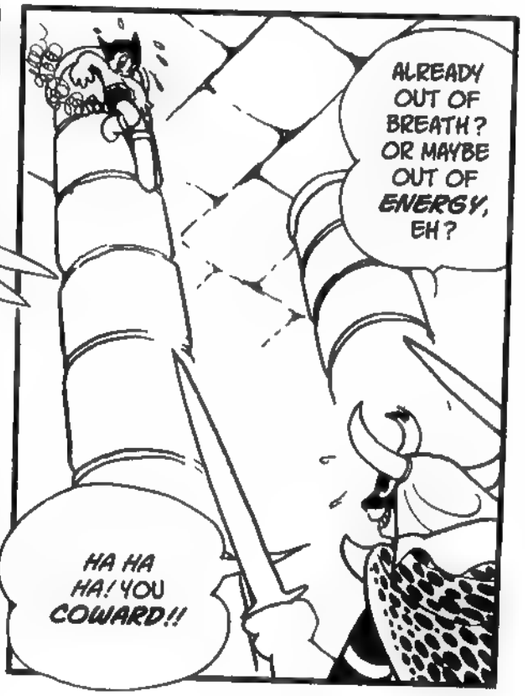
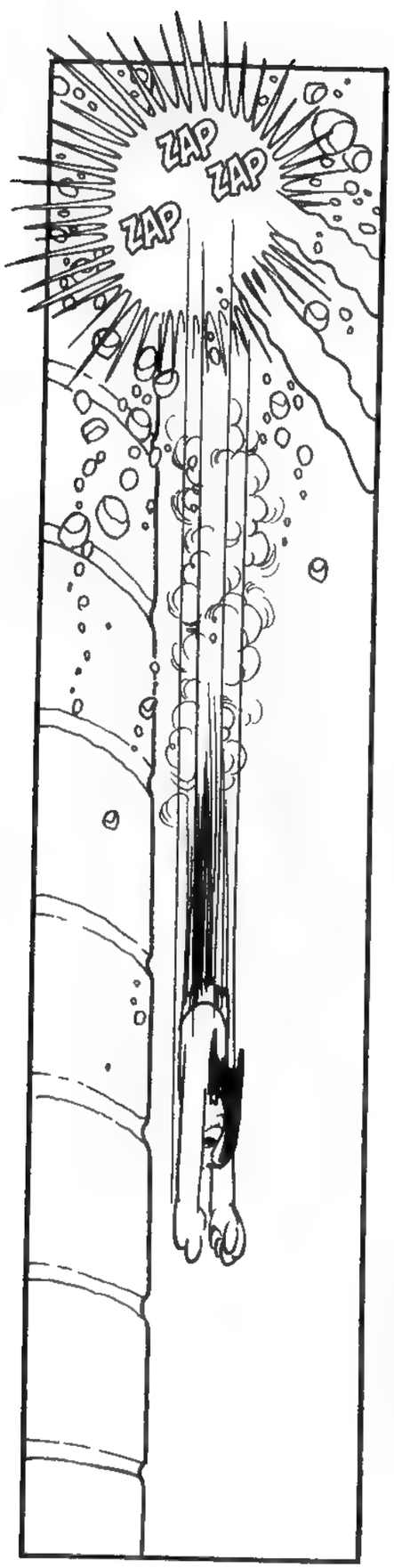
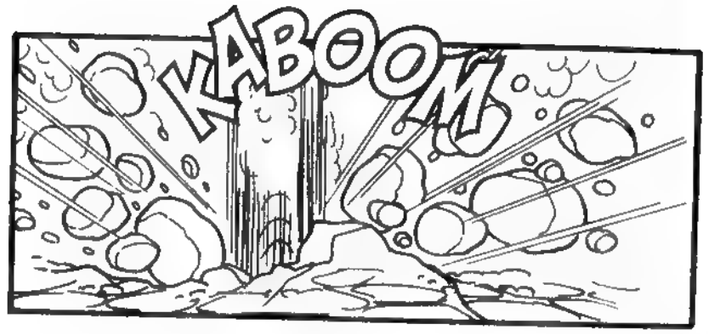
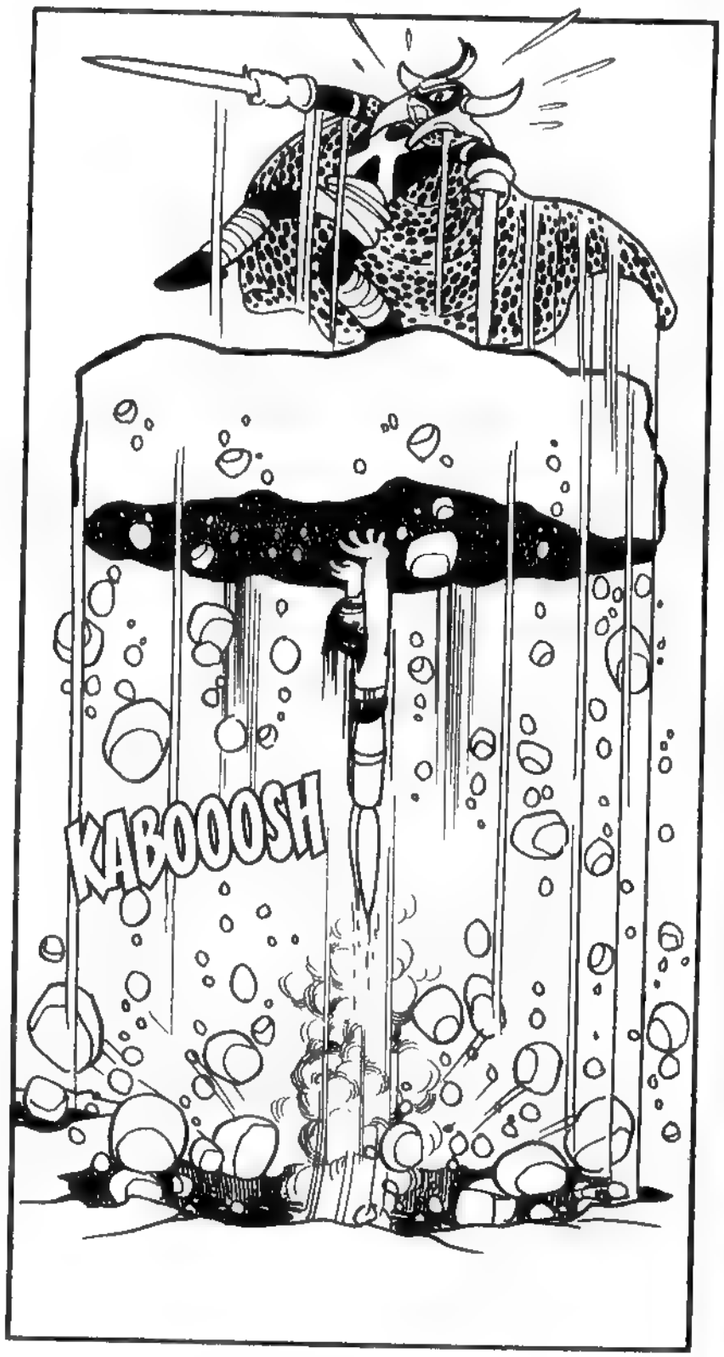


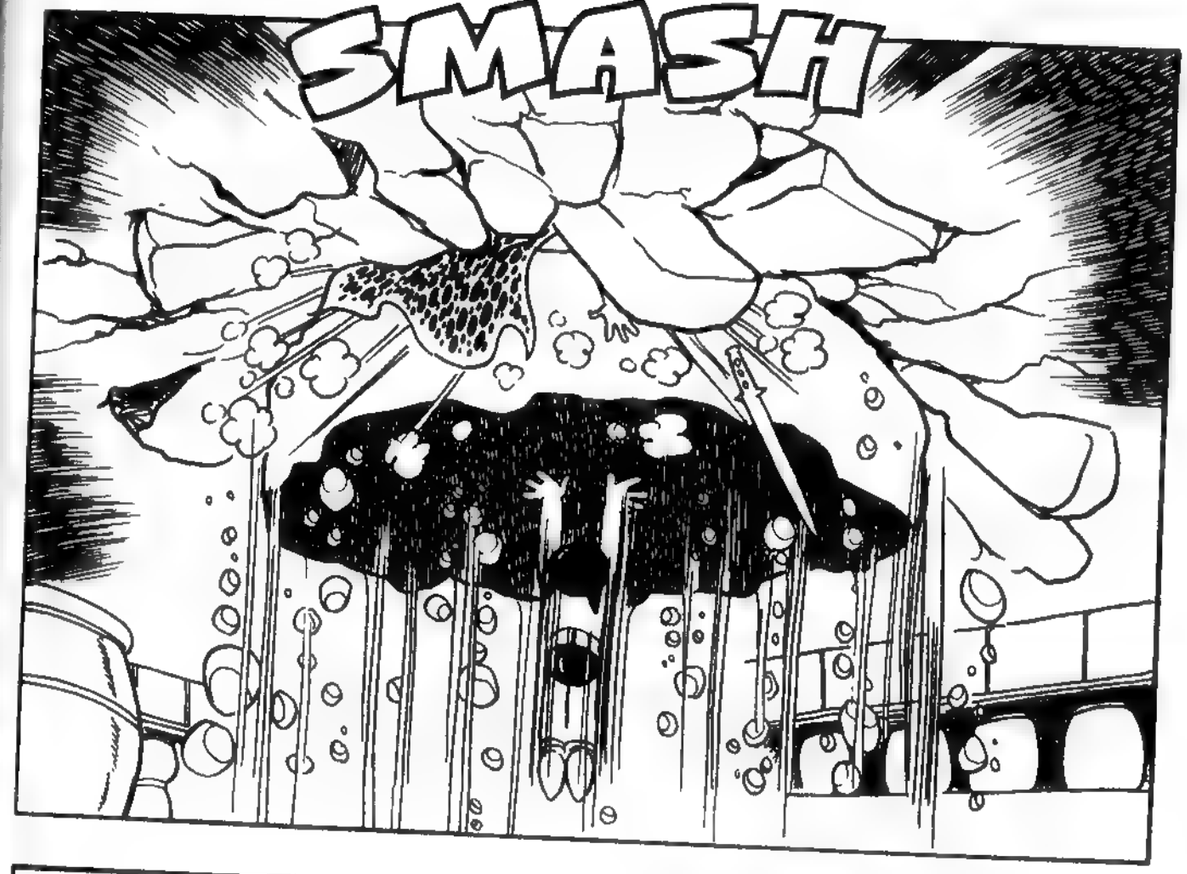
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP

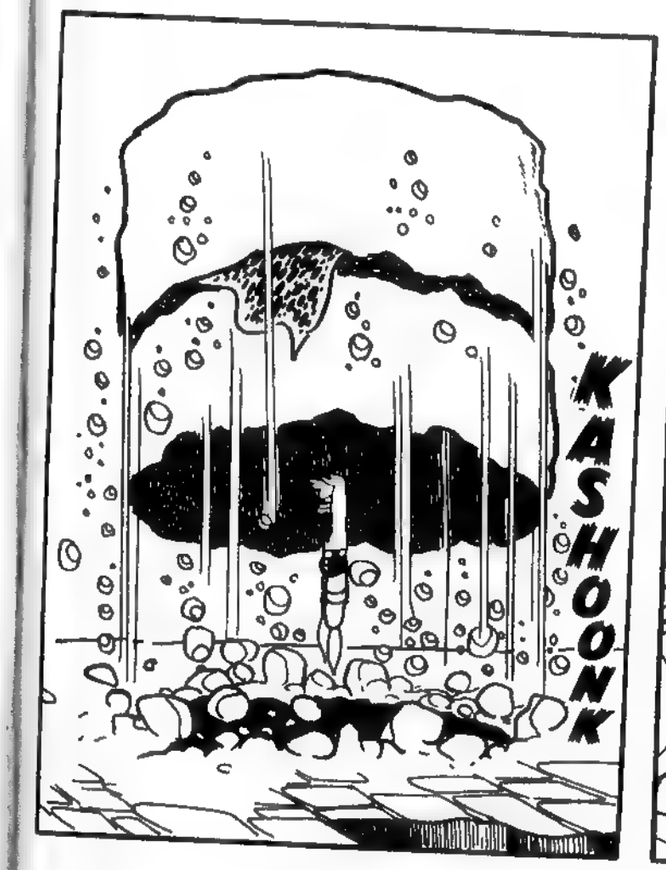

ALREADY OUT OF BREATH? OR MAYBE OUT OF ENERGY, EH?
HA HA HA! YOU COWARD!!

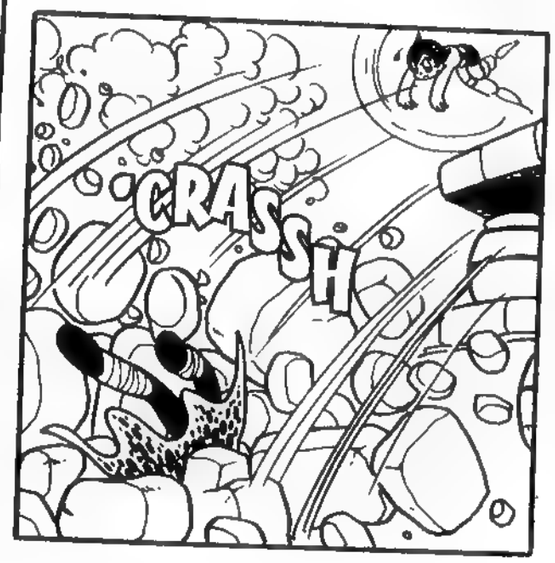

ZAP
ZAP
ZAP


KABOOM


KABOOOSH


SMASH


KASHOONK


CRASSH

THIS IS HOW I TREAT SCOUN-DRELS LIKE YOU!

A-ASTRO.... W-WAIT... PLEASE DON'T KILL BULBO!!

RATTLE CHAK

ASTRO!! THANK HEAVENS!

HURRY, PROFESSOR! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS GUY HERE! YOU INJECT THE LADY AND ALL THE OTHER HUMANS, OKAY ?!

HERE YOU GO....

CAN SHE BE SAVED, PROFES-SOR?!

LOOKS LIKE THE MEDICINE'S FINALLY WORKING!

SO SHE'LL BE OKAY ....

I'M SO RELIEVED, MOTHER!

HEY, IT'S SPARK !!

I SNUCK INTO THE ROOM WHERE URAN WAS SLEEPING, OPENED HER CHEST CAVITY, AND TOOK OUT THE CRUCIFIX, ASTRO!!

YAY!!! YOU DID IT, SPARK!

B-BUT WHERE'S URAN?!

SHE FAINTED FROM SHOCK THE MOMENT I TOOK THIS OUT, BUT SHE OUGHT TO COME TO ANY MINUTE!

YOU'VE GOTTA GIVE ME THAT CRUCIFIX, SPARK... LET ME SMASH IT FOR YOU ....

NO WAY, ASTRO...

WHAT?! WHY NOT?!

OPEN YOUR CHEST HATCH, ASTRO! NOW!

KACHAK

WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SPARK?!

HEH HEH HEH... THIS CRUCIFIX WAS ACTUALLY DESIGNED FOR *YOUR* CHEST CAVITY, ASTRO... SO I TOOK IT OUT OF URAN, AND I'M GOING TO PUT IT IN *YOU!!*

THAT WAY YOU'LL HAVE THE SUPER POWERS, JUST AS WE INTENDED ALL ALONG!

SPARK... WHAT'RE YOU *SAYING?*

SURELY YOU'VE FIGURED IT OUT.... I'M A *SPY*, SEE, SENT HERE FROM THE PLANET *KAZAATA*....

I CAME HERE TO SHOW THE ROBOTS ON EARTH HOW TO MAKE THEIR *OWN* NATION!

I'M ALSO THE ONE WHO DROPPED THE CRUCIFIX ON EARTH... AND I'M THE ONE WHO BROADCAST THE VOICE OF THE CRUCIFIX!

THE FUTURE OF KAZAATA DEPENDS ON *YOU*, ASTRO! SO OPEN YOUR HATCH AND PUT THIS INSIDE!

NO! I WON'T!

PUT IT IN, SO YOU CAN FIGHT THE HUMANS WITH US!

SO *THAT'S* WHAT YOU WANTED TO USE ME FOR...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, ASTRO BOY!

REFUSE IF YOU WANT, BUT I'LL PUT THIS INSIDE YOU, EVEN IF I HAVE TO DISCONNECT YOUR POWER!

KER BA'SHI

IT... IT'S *URAN!!!*

SMASH

NO!

BLAST YOU, ASTRO!

TAKE *THIS*, SPARK!

COME BACK HERE!

TIME TO GIVE UP, SPARK!

VOOOM

LISTEN... EARTH'S NOT LIKE KAZAATA OR WHATEVER IT'S CALLED.... ROBOTS HERE DON'T WANT TO DESTROY HUMANS. SO DON'T EVER COME AND BOTHER US AGAIN! *UNDERSTAND?!*

OH MY GOSH! NO!!

TIK TOK TIK TOK

KA BA BOOOOM

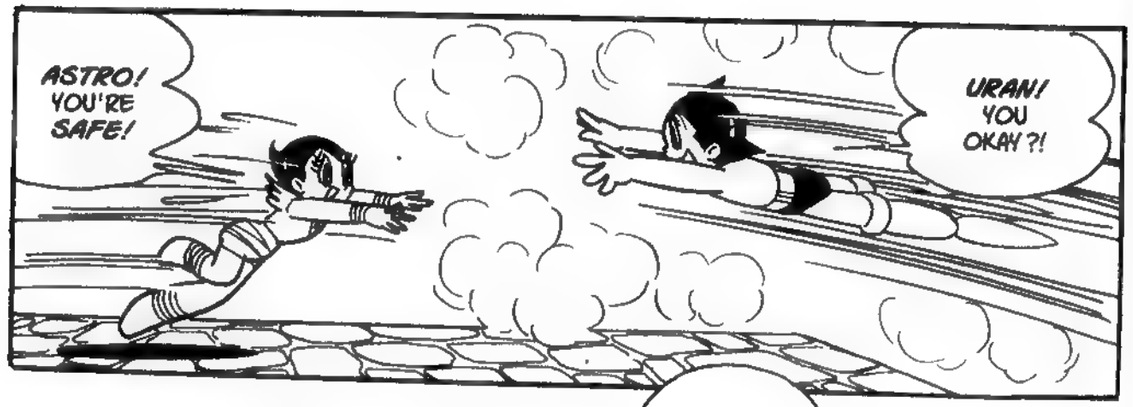
G'BYE, SPARK!

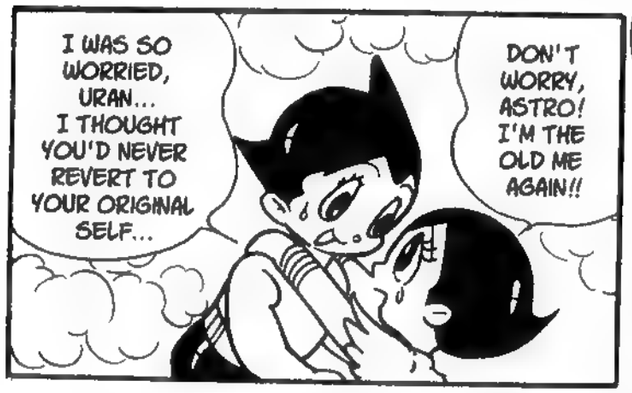
ROAR

LOOK AT THAT, TENMA...

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU! THE SPY FROM OUTER SPACE IS DEAD!!

HE KNEW HE'D LOSE, SO HE BLEW HIMSELF UP WITH A *TIME BOMB!*

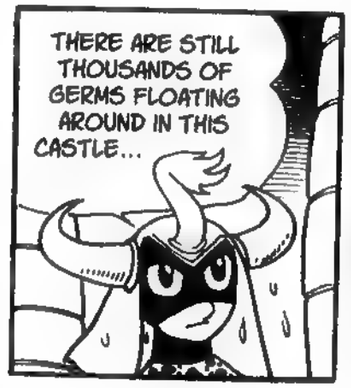

ASTRO! YOU'RE SAFE!
URAN! YOU OKAY?!

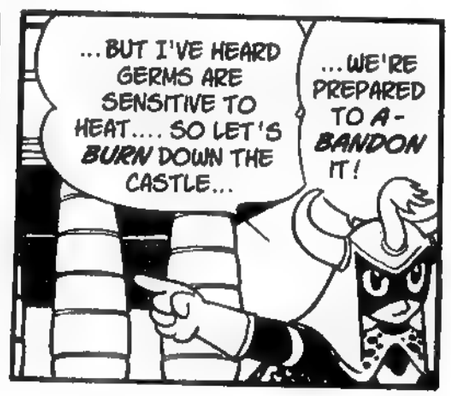

I WAS SO WORRIED, URAN... I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER REVERT TO YOUR ORIGINAL SELF...
DON'T WORRY, ASTRO! I'M THE OLD ME AGAIN!!

I WANNA GO BACK TO JAPAN NOW, ASTRO...
I'LL SAY! LET'S GO STRAIGHT HOME!!

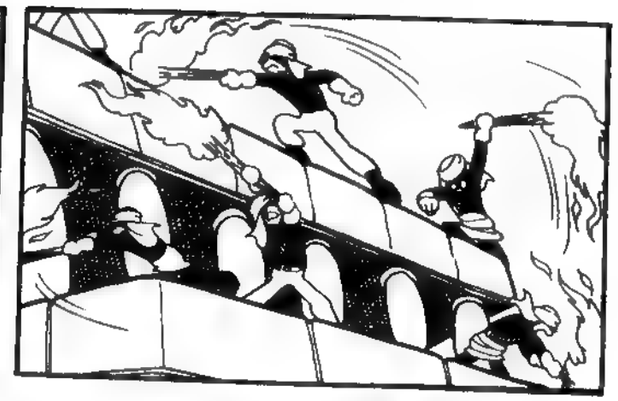
I DON'T GET SOMETHING HERE, ASTRO.... YOU'VE CHANGED, SO QUICKLY....

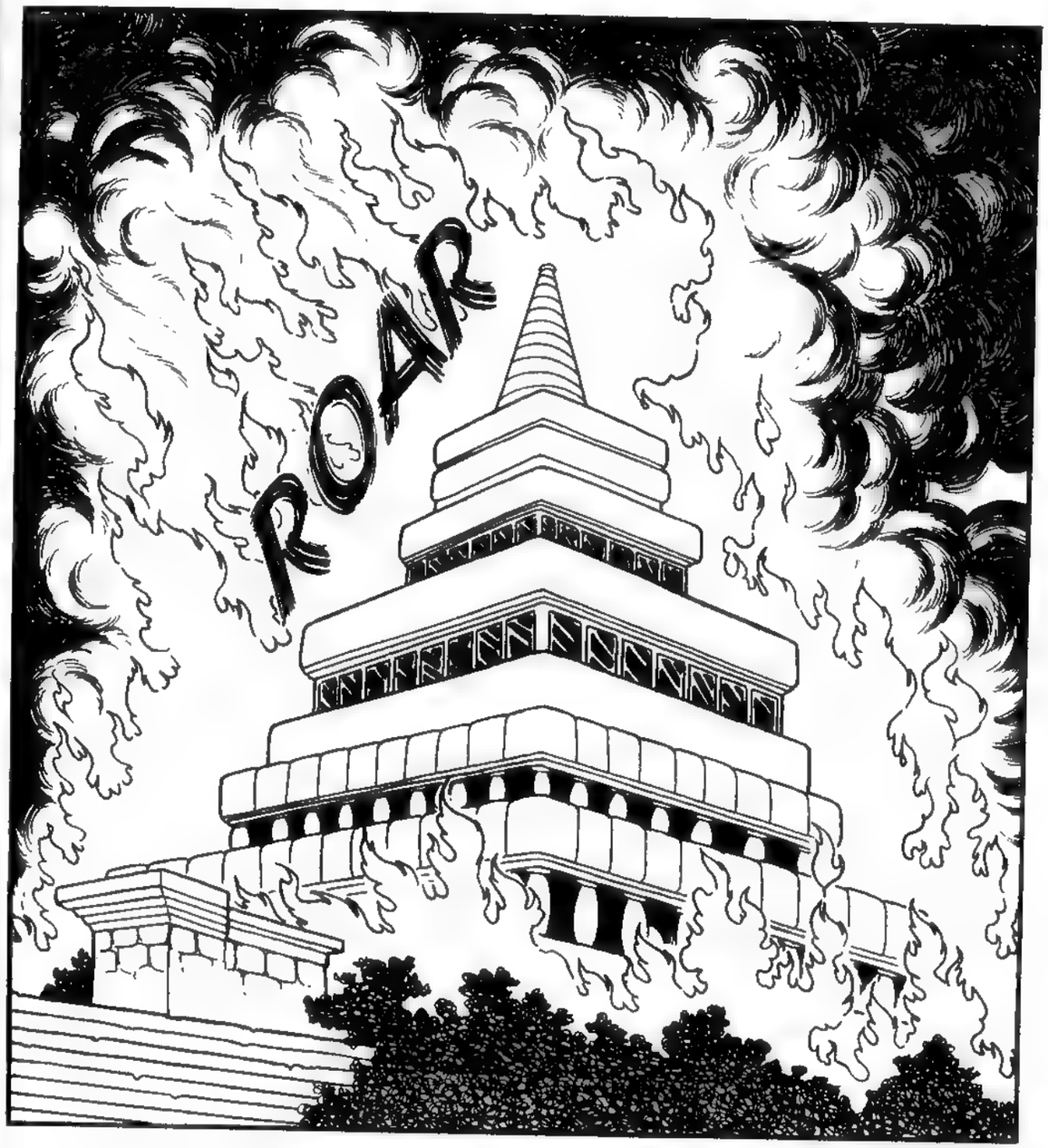
I AM READY TO BE PUNISHED FOR MY ACTIONS...


THERE ARE STILL THOUSANDS OF GERMS FLOATING AROUND IN THIS CASTLE...


...BUT I'VE HEARD GERMS ARE SENSITIVE TO HEAT.... SO LET'S BURN DOWN THE CASTLE...
...WE'RE PREPARED TO A-BANDON IT!

TORCH THE PLACE, MEN!




ROAR

ROAR ROAR

WHAT'LL YOU DO NOW, BULBO?

I'M GOING BACK TO CIVILIZATION AND TAKE SOME TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT....

...TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO LIVE AS A ROBOT....

YOU PREDICTED THAT ROBOTS WOULD REVOLT AGAINST HUMANS, TENMA... BUT AS LONG AS HUMANS AND ROBOTS FEEL SOME SORT OF AFFECTION FOR EACH OTHER, WE'LL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER SOMEHOW!!

MEEVA

First serialized from September to December 1966 in *Shonen* magazine.

A SOLITARY MAN STAGGERS ACROSS AN ENDLESS DESERT IN THE BLAZING SUN.... HIS BODY IS GREEN IN COLOR....

I... I'M DYING OF THIRST!!

W... WA... WATER ....

A... AN... O... A... SIS.....

VROOM

GOSH... *LOOK!* WE'RE IN THE DESERT, BUT THERE'S A *FOREST* THERE, PROFESSOR!

HA HA.... THIS IS AN *OASIS*, URAN... MAYBE WE CAN STOP TO SMELL THE FLOWERS...

≥HMPH≤.... WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD STOP TO SMELL *FLOWERS* ?

IT'S A *JOKE*, TENMA.... I MEAN WE CAN TAKE A BREAK HERE...

THIS IS MORE LIKE IT... A *NATURAL SPRING!*

THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST TASTING WATER IN THE WORLD....

HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU...

KERSPLOOSH

B
A
S
H

JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME, PROFES-SOR!

LOOK!!

THE PLANTS BY THE WATER HAVE ALL TURNED RED AND *DIED!!*

THIS WATER'S SUPER-*POISONOUS*, PROFESSOR! I BET IT'S BECAUSE OF THE *SERPENT!*

YOU SAVED MY LIFE, ASTRO... *THAT'S* FOR SURE...

LOOK AT THE PALM TREE FRONDS, OCHAN-OMIZU!

THEY WERE *GREEN* JUST A MINUTE AGO...

...AND NOW THEY'RE *DEAD!*

WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON HERE?

I'LL SAY... EVERYTHING'S *DYING!*

FWP FWP FWP FWP

ALL THE PLANTS HAVE *DISINTEGRATED!* WE'RE STANDING AMONG *ASHES!!*

Y-YIKES! EVEN MY *LEGS* FEEL LIKE THEY'RE ROTTING!

H...HELP ME, ASTRO! HELP... I'M *DOOMED!*

THUD

EVERYTHING LOOKS NORMAL TO ME, PROFESSOR...

GOSH, YOU'RE JUST TOO *WEAK-KNEED*, PROFESSOR... THAT'S ALL!! *TEE HEE...*

W...WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.... IT'S *SCARING* ME TO *DEATH!*

WELL, *I'M* NOT LEAVING!

YOU'RE NOT?!

THIS IS TOO BIG A MYSTERY! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S CAUSING IT!

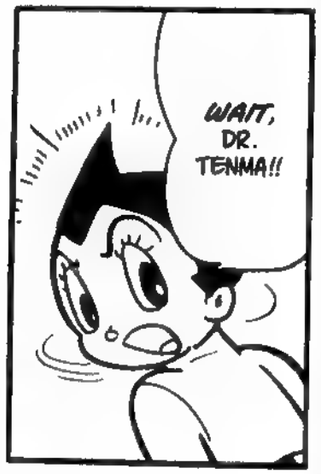
TENMA! DON'T BE *CRAZY* !!

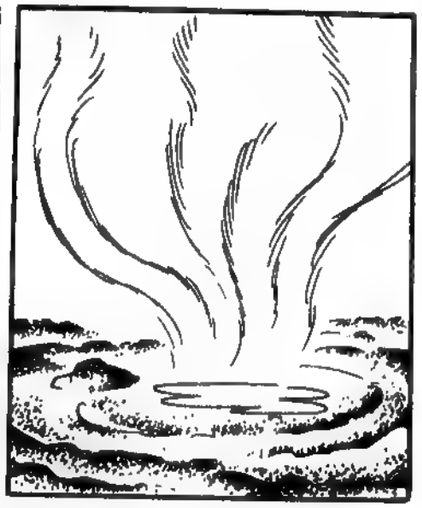
CRAZY? I JUST WANT TO SOLVE THIS *MYSTERY!*

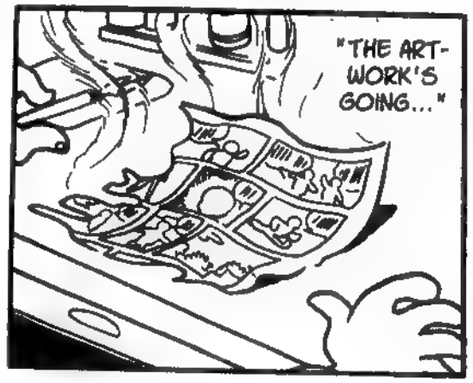
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT *CURIOSITY* AND THE *CAT!*

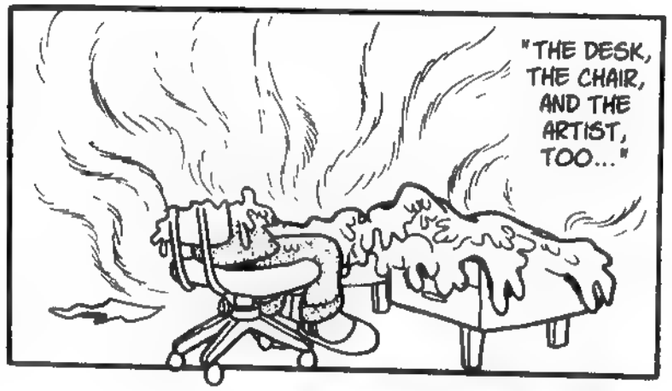
THEN LEAVE ASTRO HERE WITH ME, OCHANOMIZU! YOU AND URAN GO AHEAD AND SAVE YOURSELVES!

WE *WILL*, THANKS... ASTRO, YOU FLY BACK WITH TENMA TO JOIN US SOON AS YOU CAN, OKAY?









"EVENTUALLY THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT AT ALL!"

LOOK, ASTRO! THERE'S A TINY BLACK DOT ON THE HORIZON! IT LOOKS LIKE A *HUMAN!*

HEY! ANYONE THERE?!

WOW... I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...

IT'S A *MAN...* AND HE'S *GREEN* ALL OVER...

.....
.....

W-WATER....

WANTS WATER, DOES HE?

HERE YOU GO...

GLUB GLUB GLUB

GLUB GLUB

WHAT THE --?!

GLUBE GLUBE GLUBE GLUBE

WOW... HE SURE DRINKS A LOT... MUST'VE BEEN *REALLY* THIRSTY...

HEY... THAT'S ENOUGH, MY FRIEND...

WHEW...

Y... YOU'RE CRYING, AREN'T YOU? WHY?

.....
.....

WHAT HAPPENED? WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...

WHA?!

VROOM

AIEEE!!

AOO-OO!! AOO-OO!

ROAR

VOOSH

ROAR

FSSSHT

MEEVA! GOT FREE AGAIN, *EH?* WELL, THIS TIME WE'VE GOT YOU FOR *GOOD!*

UH... UH... UH...

HOG-TIE HIM SO WE CAN TAKE HIM IN!!

YAS-SIR!

SWISH

SWISH

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU IDIOT!! WE'RE NOT ACTING IN A COWBOY MOVIE HERE!!

EXCUSE US, GENTLE-MEN...

FORGIVE THE INTER-RUPTION...

W-WAIT!

WAIT! TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THAT, I CAN'T TELL YOU, MY FRIEND...

WHY... YOU INSOLENT SCOUN-DREL!

WHAT'D YOU SAY?

I DON'T TAKE INSULTS EASILY, FRIEND...

RATATATATAT

WITH THIS BOY AROUND, NONE OF YOUR TRICKS ARE GOING TO WORK, MISTER!

S-SO HE'S A ROBOT, EH?

I CAN'T EXPLAIN THINGS, BUT MY BOSS WILL... HOP ON BOARD...

VROOOSH

VROOOM

DAMOCLES, SIR! WE'VE RETRIEVED MEEVA!

AND WE'VE BROUGHT BACK THESE TWO MEN-- I MEAN ONE MAN AND ONE THING-- WHO WERE THERE WITH MEEVA...

WHO THE HECK ARE THEY?

WELL ?!

SAY... AREN'T YOU *DR. TENMA*... THE FORMER HEAD OF JAPAN'S MINISTRY OF SCIENCE?

I AM INDEED ...

WELL... OF ALL THE GOOD LUCK!

YOU'RE JUST THE PERSON I NEED TO TALK TO! *HEH HEH!*

I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

WELL, I'M CALLED *DAMOCLES*...

AND THAT IS *MEEVA!*

GRR...

HE'S A SLAVE I FOUND ORPHANED IN THE DESERT THREE YEARS AGO AND RAISED TO BE A SERVANT....

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, AND YOU'RE RIGHT... HE CAN'T TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT HIMSELF...

BUT THROUGH A QUIRK OF FATE...

...I LEARNED THAT HE POSSESSES A MYSTERIOUS *SUPER POWER!*

SO WHAT IS THE POWER ?!

HEH HEH ....

HE CAN SUMMON THE *PAST!!*

WHAT?!

HOW SHOULD I SAY IT... HE'S LIKE A *HUMAN TIME MACHINE!*

B-BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BRING MEEVA HERE!

HERE... I'LL SHOW YOU....

I SAID, BRING HIM *HERE!* HURRY IT UP!

ARGGGE... ARGGHE...

AE... ARGHE....

FORGIVE US, MISTER....

1500 YEARS AGO... GOT IT, MEEVA?

B-BUT WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

YOU'LL SEE.... IT'S AN *EXPERI-MENT...*

SWISH

SWISH

UHHHHE.... AIEEE!!E

SWISH

B-BUT YOU'RE *TORTURING* HIM!

SWISH

SWISH

AIEEEE!

THUD

HMPH

THIS ISN'T WORKING RIGHT...

ONE MORE TIME, MEN...

SPLOOSHE GLUBE ARGHE

LET'S TRY THIS THING NEXT...

THIS OUGHTA WORK....

OKAY, MEEVA... 1500 YEARS AGO! ONE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, OKAY?!

WHAT THE --P!

?

?

WHAT'S GOING ON?! IT'S GOT TO BE A MIRAGE.... BUT I SEE AN ANCIENT *CASTLE*-LIKE STRUCTURE... RIGHT IN *FRONT* OF US...

I CAN SEE IT, TOO, DR. TENMA! IT'S NO MIRAGE! IT'S *REAL!*

THIS TIME IT *WORKED!*

SNAP

HEH HEH.... THE ROBO-BOY'S RIGHT, MISTER... IT'S *NOT* A MIRAGE!! GO AHEAD... TAKE A LOOK INSIDE... BUT WATCH YOUR HEAD!

WOW.... THIS IS AN OLD *TEMPLE*...

LOOK, DR. TENMA! THERE'RE *PEOPLE* OVER THERE!

HERE THEY ARE, YUP!!

?

A NANDA RUSHIA!

ACK!!

ARGH....

UNGH...

I DON'T GET IT! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

ROAAR

RUMBLE

THE WHOLE PLACE IS *CRUMBLING*, DR. TENMA! GET *UNDERNEATH* ME!

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

CRASH

CRASH

EVERYTHING'S FALLING APART.... IT'S *DISINTEGRATING!* ...JUST LIKE AT THE *OASIS* BEFORE!!

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

THE PEOPLE, THE WALLS, THE CEILING....

...EVERY-THING'S DISINTE-GRATING!!

IT ALL TURNED INTO *SAND!*

...AND *DUST!!*

AND IT'S ALL *BLOWING AWAY* ON THE *WIND!*

LISTEN, WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU, AND WHAT'S GOING *ON* HERE?! THIS IS THE SAME PHENOMENON WE SAW AT THE *OASIS!!*

WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT?! TRUST YOU SAW SOMETHING *INTERESTING*...

SO THE OASIS *DISAPPEARED* AGAIN, DID IT? *HAR HAR HAR!* OF COURSE, I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...

LISTEN, DR. TENMA... THAT OASIS...

...IS ONE FROM *CENTURIES* AGO!

BASICALLY, THIS GUY HERE WAS IN THE *DESERT*, AND *THIRSTY*, AND HE *MADE* IT APPEAR!

I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

LET *ME* EXPLAIN, TENMA... MEEVA'S A *HUMAN TIME MACHINE*... WHAT HE IMAGINES APPEARS BEFORE US, JUST AS IT WAS IN ANCIENT TIMES!

THAT'S HOW MEEVA WAS ABLE TO SUMMON UP THAT 1500 YEAR OLD *TEMPLE EARLIER*...

A TEMPLE FROM 1500 YEARS AGO?!

B... BUT HOW IN THE WORLD CAN HE *DO* THAT?!

I DON'T KNOW. I ONLY KNOW THAT HIS POWER ONLY WORKS WHEN HE'S *SUFFERING* TERRIBLY...

SUFFER-ING TERRIBLY?

B... BUT...

IF HE'S *REALLY* A HUMAN TIME MACHINE, HE POSSESSES TRULY *INCREDIBLE POWERS!*

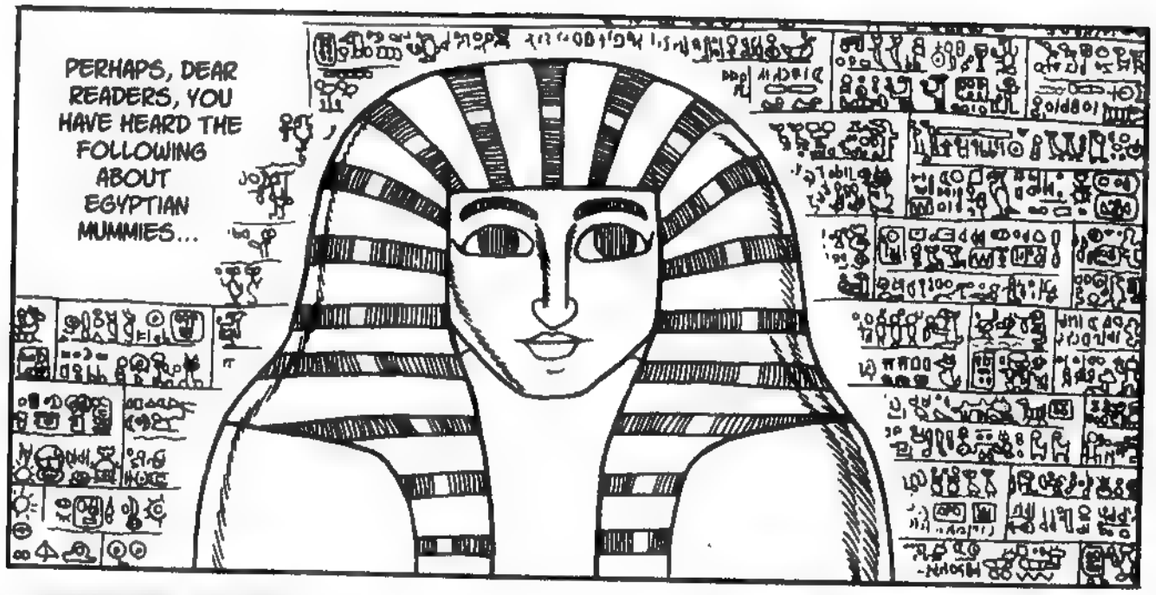
.....
.....
.....

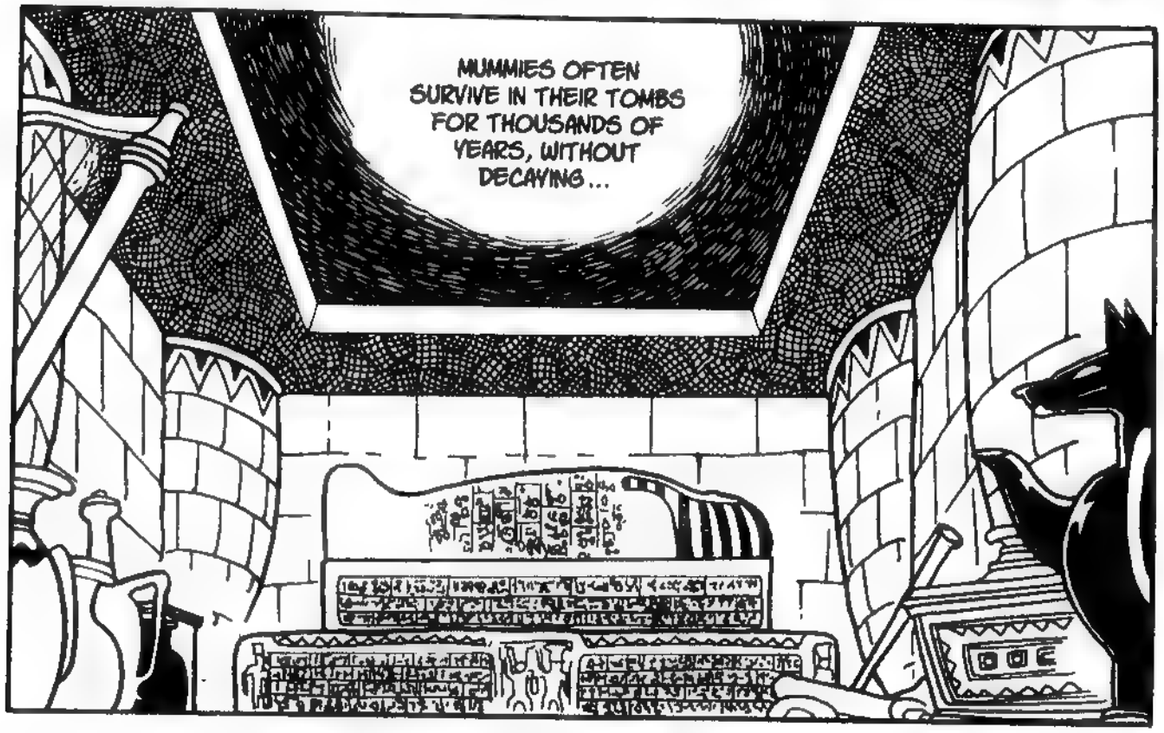
GOSH, HE SURE HAS A SAD EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE...

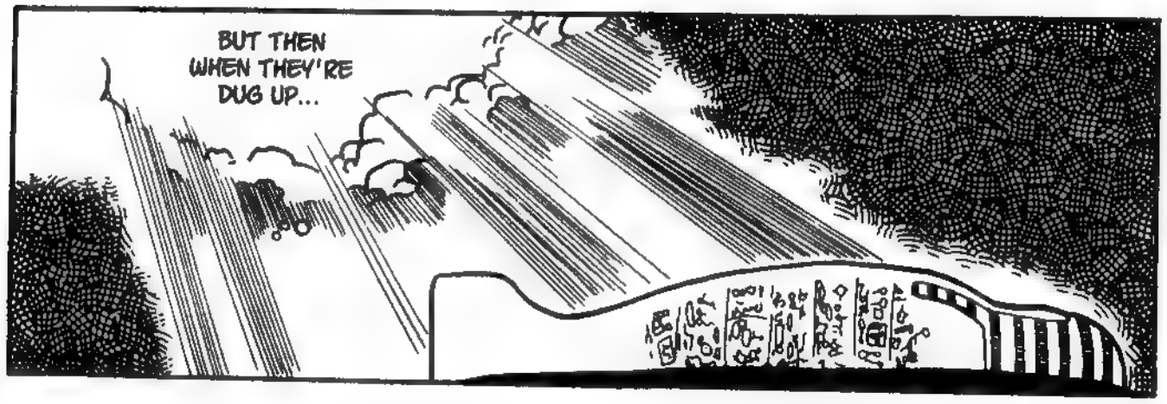
THAT'S THE END OF THE EXPERIMENT... TAKE HIM OUT OF HERE!

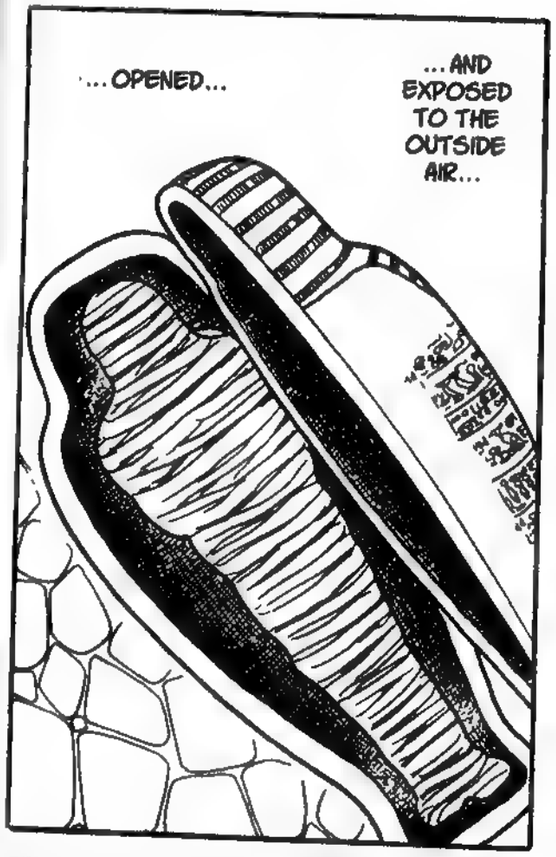
DON'T EVEN *THINK* OF TRYING TO ESCAPE AGAIN, MEEVA... YOU'LL NOT ONLY CHANNEL THE PAST, YOU'LL BE *SENT* THERE *FOREVER!!*

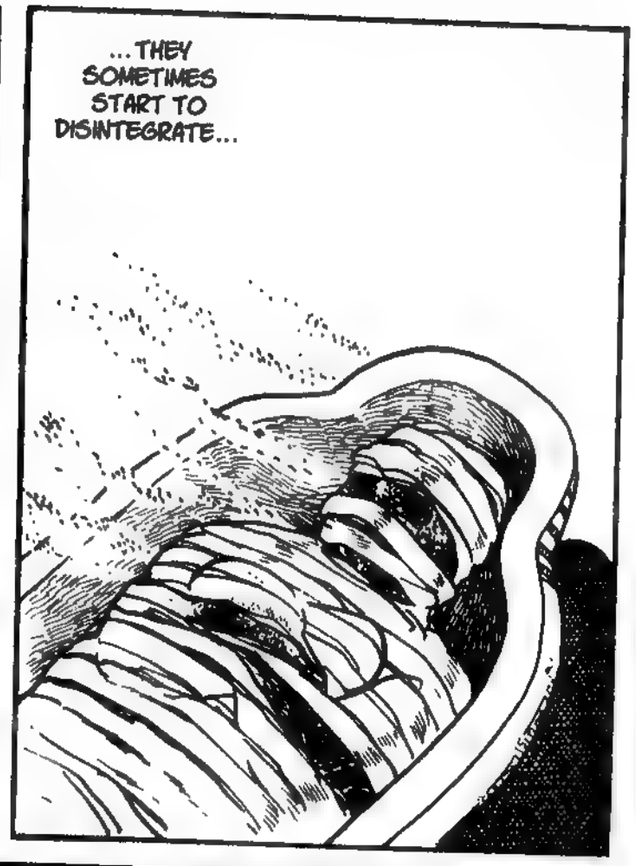
HAVE FUN IN HERE, PAL!


PERHAPS, DEAR READERS, YOU HAVE HEARD THE FOLLOWING ABOUT EGYPTIAN MUMMIES...

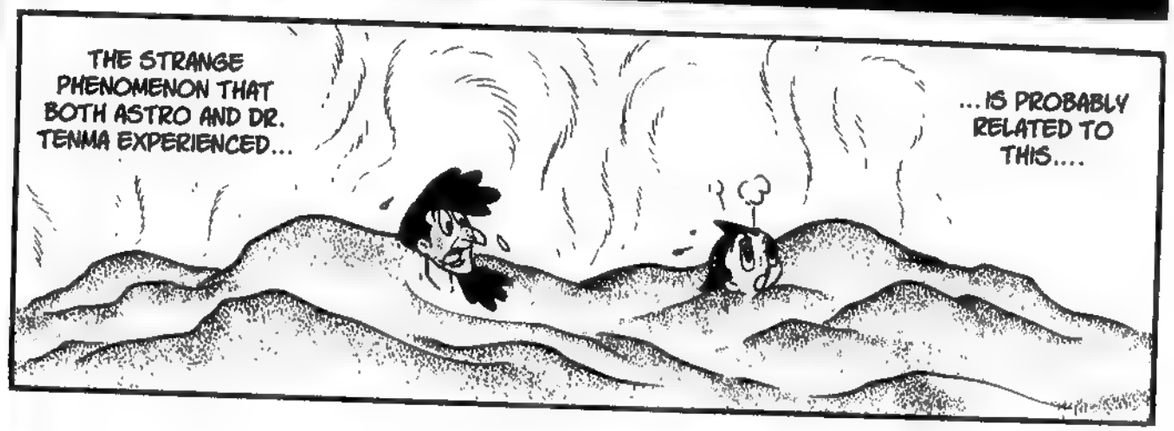

MUMMIES OFTEN SURVIVE IN THEIR TOMBS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, WITHOUT DECAYING...

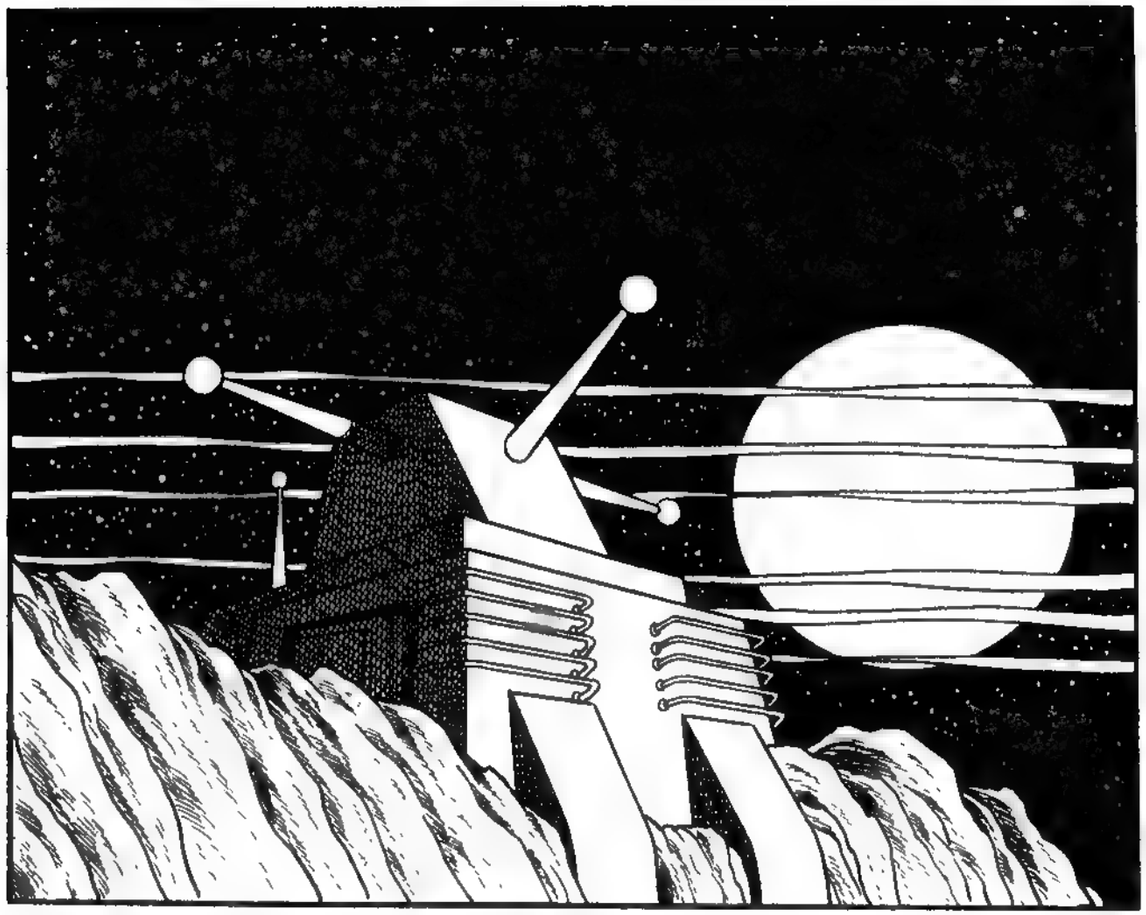

BUT THEN WHEN THEY'RE DUG UP...


...OPENED...
...AND EXPOSED TO THE OUTSIDE AIR...


...THEY SOMETIMES START TO DISINTEGRATE...

SOME PEOPLE SAY IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED THROUGH *HUNDREDS*, IF NOT *THOUSANDS*, OF YEARS...
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY MAY DECAY SO FAST BECAUSE THEY'RE AGING HUNDREDS OF YEARS IN AN INSTANT...


THE STRANGE PHENOMENON THAT BOTH ASTRO AND DR. TENMA EXPERIENCED...
...IS PROBABLY RELATED TO THIS....



SOBE....

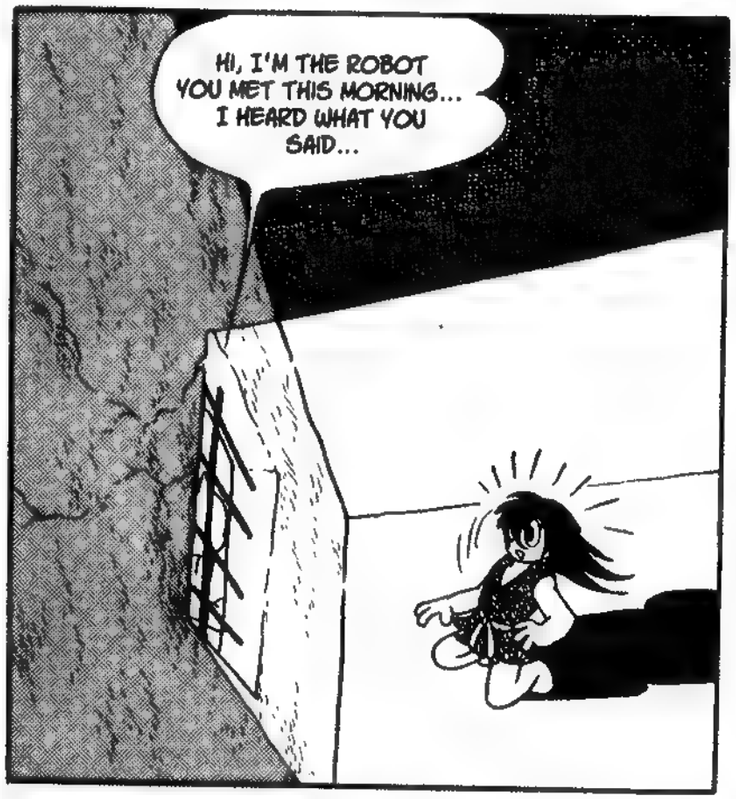
MOTHER ....
WHY DID YOU DO THIS?

WHY DID YOU ABANDON ME IN THIS WORLD?

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO LEAVE ME, MOTHER?

I WANT TO GO BACK TO MY OWN HOME...

HELLO...
WHA?


HI, I'M THE ROBOT YOU MET THIS MORNING... I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID...

I CAN HEAR 1000 TIMES BETTER THAN HUMANS CAN, SO I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID A LONG WAYS AWAY...

DON'T WORRY...
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP YOU...

PLEASE... PLEASE HELP ME!

YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME ESCAPE!!
GOSH, YOU POOR THING...

I'LL *DIE* HERE LIKE THIS...

THEY'LL *TORTURE* ME TO DEATH!

B... BUT WHERE'S YOUR HOME?

I... I DON'T KNOW...

"THREE YEARS AGO I WAS WALKING ACROSS A DESERT WITH MY MOTHER..."

LOOK! SOME *PEOPLE* LIVE THERE....

I HATE TO LEAVE YOU HERE LIKE THIS, MEEVA, BUT I HAVE TO... TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, AND DON'T HATE ME, OKAY?

I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE YOU HERE ON THIS PLANET....

I'M SURE SOMEONE HERE WILL PICK YOU UP, AND RAISE YOU...

"THAT WAS THE LAST THING MY MOTHER EVER SAID TO ME..."

SO YOU WERE *ABANDONED?*

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM *BEFORE* THAT?

NOT A THING.... I JUST REMEMBER WHAT MY MOTHER LOOKED LIKE, THAT'S ALL...

WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE, MAYBE THERE'S HOPE...

I'LL HELP YOU ESCAPE, MEEVA...

I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET HOME...

TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE GUARDING THIS PLACE ABOVE GROUND, SO IT'S TIME TO *DIVE*...

KA SHLINK

QUICK! GET IN THIS HOLE, MEEVA! WE CAN TRAVEL UNDERGROUND THROUGH IT TO ESCAPE!

WE'LL NEED TO GET AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE...

THIS OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THE MATTER THAT MEEVA SUMMONED FROM THE PAST IS 1500 YEARS OLD.... I CAN TELL FROM THE LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVITY IN SOME OF THE REMAINING ASHES...

WELL, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA *WHAT* HE IS?!

I KNOW IT SOUNDS INCREDI-BLE...

...BUT I THINK HE'S A *FOURTH-DIMENSION LIFE FORM!*

A *WHAT?!*

FOURTH DIMEN-SION ?!

3D CHECKMATE!

IN THE THIRD DIMENSION, ORDINARY HUMANS CAN'T TRAVEL THROUGH TIME BY THEM-SELVES...

B-BUT MEEVA *LOOKS* LIKE AN ORDINARY HUMAN!

THAT'S BECAUSE FOURTH-DIMENSION CREATURES CAN EASILY *MASQUERADE* AS HUMANS IN A THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORLD!

=HMPH= ....

DR. TENMA, I HAVE TO THANK YOU. I'M FINALLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MEEVA'S ALL ABOUT...

BUT WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH HIM, MR. DAMOCLES?

JUST WAIT AND SEE...

I DON'T CARE WHAT DIMENSION HE'S FROM... UNTIL NOW HE'S BEEN MY *SLAVE*...

CREAK

FOLLOW ME, TENMA ...

TAKE A LOOK AT *THIS*...

EGADS!

THESE ARE ALL JEWELS THAT I HAD MEEVA USE HIS POWERS TO BRING ME FROM THE *PAST!*

SEE THIS RUBY HERE? IT'S AS BIG AS A PIGEON EGG! MEEVA BROUGHT IT TO ME FROM THE PALACE OF *RAMSES THE 5TH!*

AND THESE FIVE EMERALDS WERE PRIZED BY *NAPOLEON!*

THIS HERE'S THE LEGENDARY *BLUE STAR OF INDIA*...

MEEVA BROUGHT ME *ALL* THESE THINGS, TENMA! *HEH HEH HEH*...

THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO SURPRISE THE WHOLE WORLD WITH MEEVA, TENMA!

I'LL COLLECT ALL THE TREASURES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD! I'LL STRIP THE PAST *BARE!*

B-BUT *WHY?*

'CUZ I WANT TO *BUY* THE WHOLE WORLD...

BUY THE *WHAT?!*

THE *WHOLE WORLD!*

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?! IF YOU'VE GOT MONEY, YOU CAN BUY *ANYTHING!*

AND THEN *EVERY-ONE* WILL LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY! *HA HA HA!*

BUY UP THE WHOLE WORLD... *HMPH!*...

MR. DAMOCLES! SOMETHING *TERRIBLE'S* HAPPENED!

MEEVA'S DISAP-PEARED!

THERE'S A GAPING *HOLE* IN THE FLOOR OF HIS CELL!

WELL, *CATCH HIM*, BLAST IT! SEND OUT A SQUAD OF *HUNTERS! DELTA*, YOU TAKE COMMAND!

YESSIR...

WE'LL SEARCH FOR MEEVA BY LAND, AIR, AND EVEN UNDERGROUND...

WE'LL USE 3D AUDIO SENSORS AND RADAR, TOO!

WE'VE GOT HUNDREDS OF *ROBOT DOGS* WITH US!

GEIGER COUNTERS!

WE'LL PICK UP TRASH!

ARF ARF ARF ARF

ARF ARF ARF ARF

YOU OKAY, MEEVA? NEED TO REST A BIT?

NO... I CAN STILL WALK...

UH OH... SOMEONE'S COMING AFTER US!

NO!

VROOOM

QUICK! WE'D BETTER DIVE IN THE SAND!

WITH THAT THING FLYING AROUND, WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE THROUGH THE AIR...

VROOOM

WH- WHAT'S THAT ?!

LOOKS LIKE ROBOT DOGS !!

ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF

YIKES! THEY'LL BE HERE IN NO TIME!

ASTRO... DO ME A FAVOR AND STRANGLE ME!

WHAT?!

SQUEEZE MY NECK AS HARD AS YOU CAN! JUST DO IT!

YOU MEAN LIKE THIS?!

HARDER! HARDER!!

BUT IF I REALLY TRY HARD, YOU MIGHT DIE!!

DON'T WORRY, JUST DO IT! HURRY!

UGH...

ARGH!!

WHAT THE--?!

ARF AROOO!

AROOOO!

HEY! WHERE'D THAT *MOUNTAIN* COME FROM?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

ARF

YIP YIP

ARF

ARF

ARF

YIP YIP

100,000 YEARS AGO THIS AREA WAS ALL MOUNTAINS, ASTRO...

I GET IT! YOU *MATERIALIZED* THIS, DIDN'T YOU?!

THAT OUGHT TO HOLD THEM OFF FOR AWHILE... LET'S GO!

IN TWO HOURS OR SO, THAT WHOLE MOUNTAIN RANGE WILL CRUMBLE AND TURN INTO DUST...

MR. DELTA, SIR! THERE'S A *MOUNTAIN RANGE* THERE!

I KNOW... AND I'M SURE IT WASN'T HERE WHEN WE PASSED BY EARLIER!

SOMETHING'S WEIRD ABOUT THIS MOUNTAIN, BOSS...

KAVONK

TH-THE GROUND'S COLLAPS-ING UNDER ME!

LOOK, MR. DELTA! IT'S MORE THAN A LANDSLIDE! THIS IS LIKE A CRUMBLING *SLAG HEAP!!*

WE'VE GOT TO *HURRY*, ASTRO! THAT MOUNTAIN'LL DISINTEGRATE INTO *ASHES* ANY MINUTE!

THERE THEY ARE, SIR! THERE THEY ARE!

GOOD! THIS TIME WE'LL GET 'EM FOR SURE!!

GET 'EM! GET 'EM!

UH OH... WE'RE BEING CUT OFF! THEY'RE APPROACH-ING FROM OUR FRONT *AND* OUR REAR!

GET 'EM! GET 'EM!

BLAST IT!

STRANGLE ME AGAIN, ASTRO!

B-BUT IT'S *NOT GOOD* FOR YOU TO BE STRANGLED!

MY POWER'S USELESS UNLESS I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO DIE!

THIS IS *CRAZY* ...

YAY! GET 'EM! GET 'EM!

SHRIPPPPPP

ARGHHH!

EEEEK!

HAALP!!

WOW! REAL DINO-SAURS!

THEY FINALLY APPEAR-ED!? WHAT A RELIEF!

AIEEE! RUN FOR IT, MEN!

JACK! THEY'RE EATING ME FIRST!

I'M SE-COND!

GUEH?

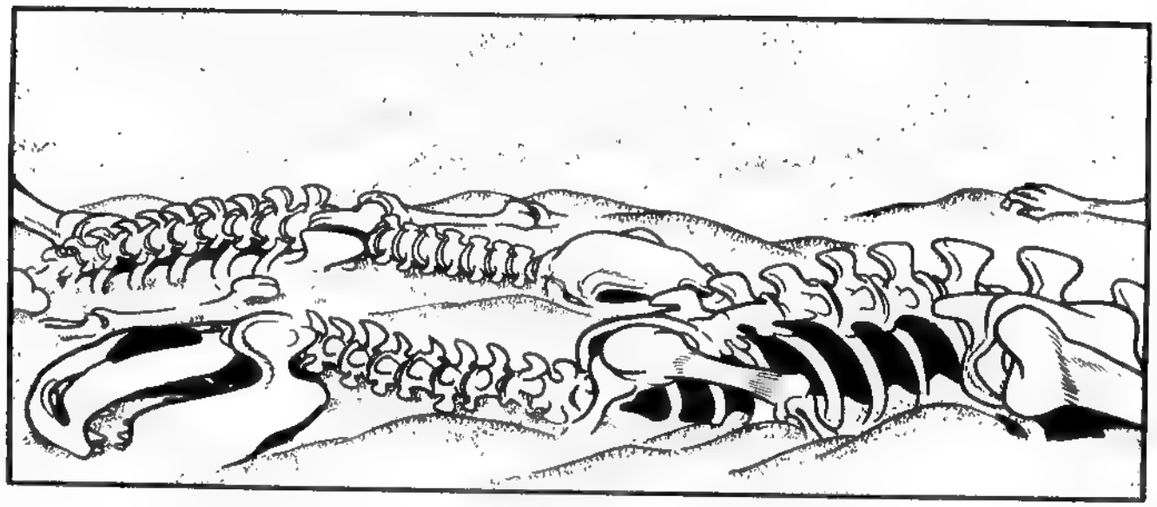
DEREH... DARA-RAH...

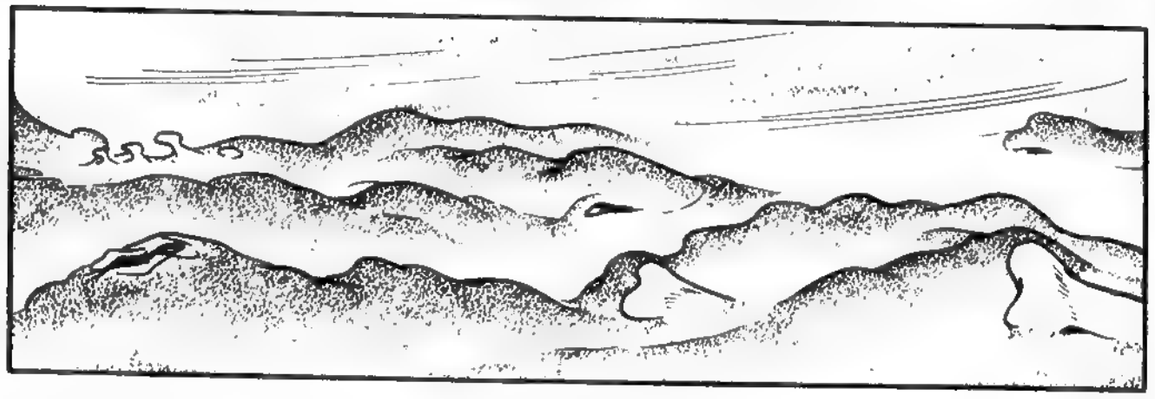
SOMETHING'S WEIRD WITH THAT DINOSAUR!

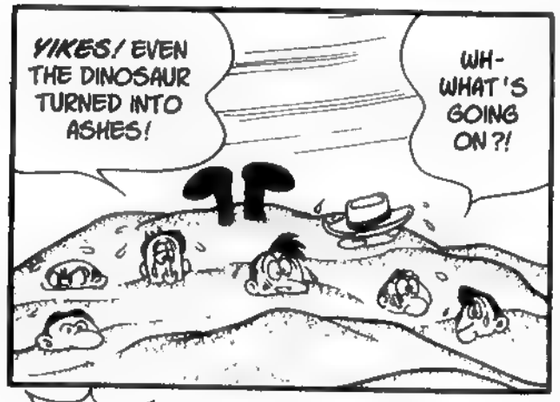
LOOK! IT'S DISINTE-GRATING!

GUWAAH

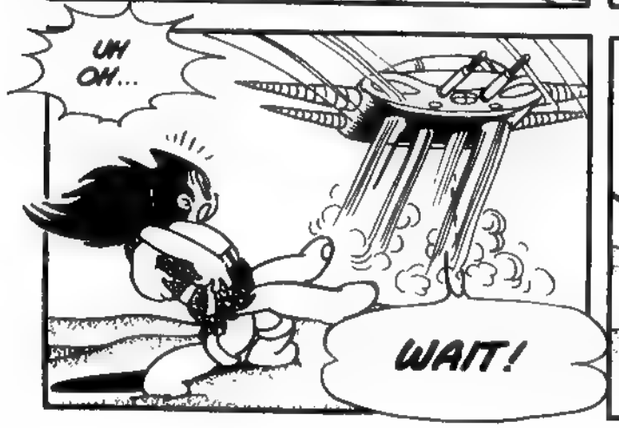
KATHUD






YIKES! EVEN THE DINOSAUR TURNED INTO ASHES!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

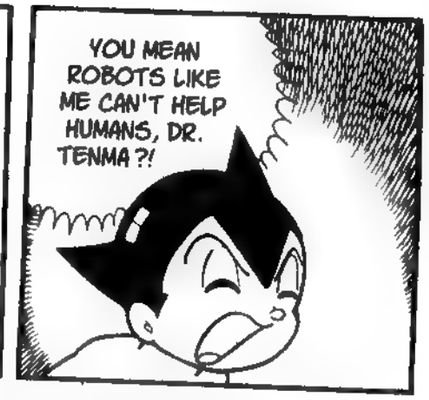
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

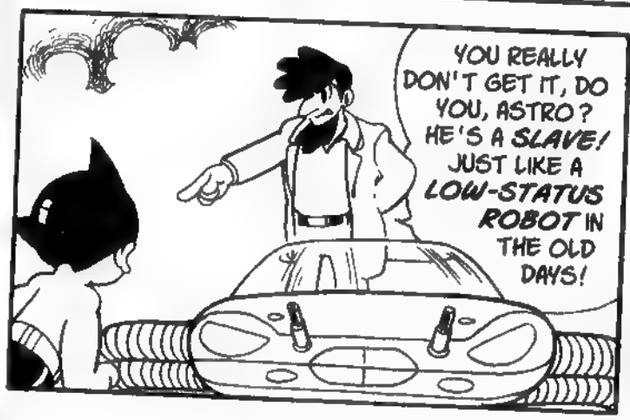

UH OH...
WAIT!

DR. TENMA? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
YOU'VE REALLY DONE SOMETHING STUPID, ASTRO... YOU NEVER SHOULD'VE HELPED MEEVA ESCAPE!

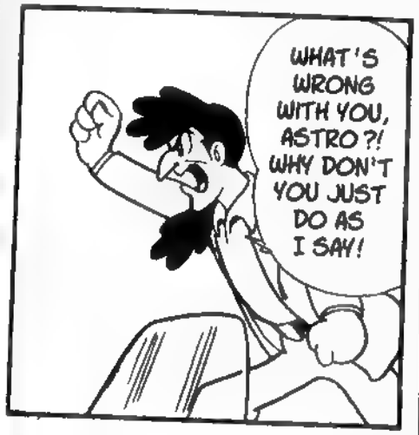
B-BUT DR. TENMA... I FELT SORRY FOR MEEVA...

HE'S A SLAVE, ASTRO! HE CAN'T BE FREE LIKE YOU AND ME!


YOU MEAN ROBOTS LIKE ME CAN'T HELP HUMANS, DR. TENMA?!

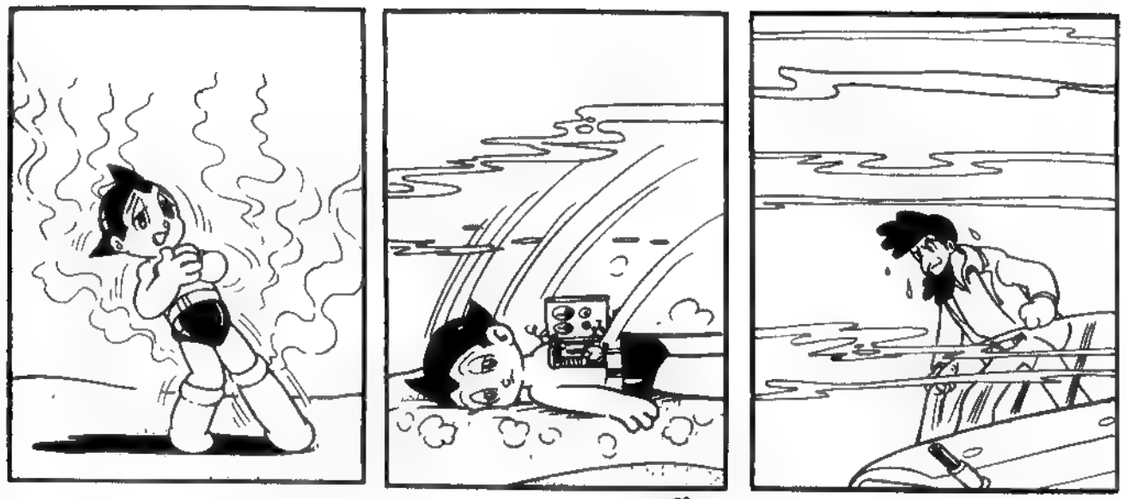

YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, ASTRO? HE'S A SLAVE! JUST LIKE A LOW-STATUS ROBOT IN THE OLD DAYS!

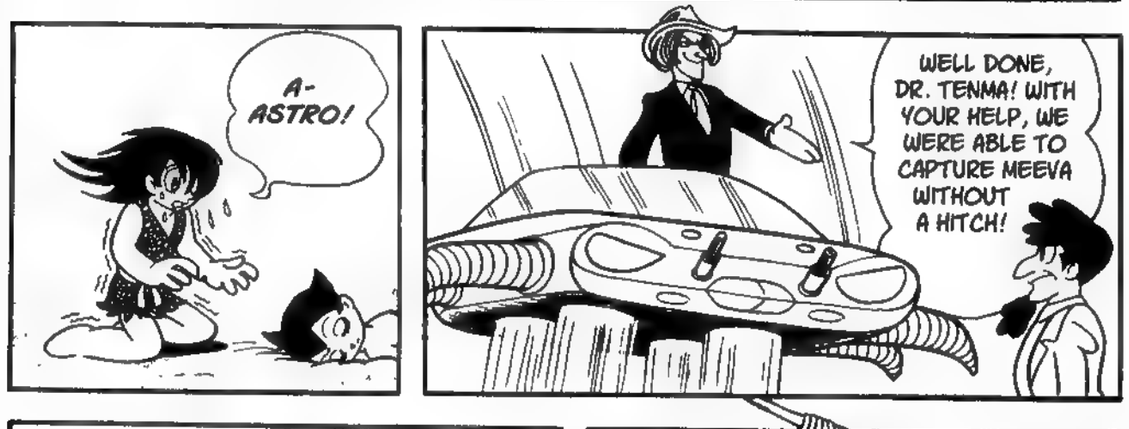
B-BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M TRYING TO HELP HIM!

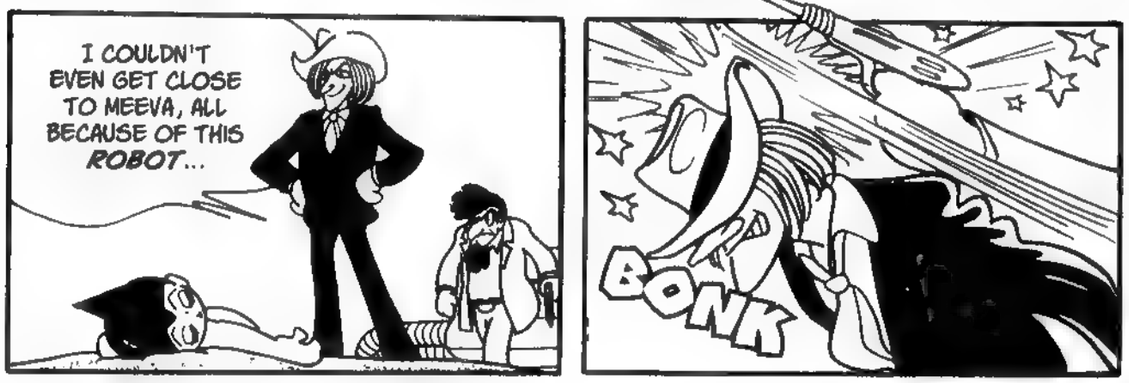

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, ASTRO?! WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO AS I SAY!

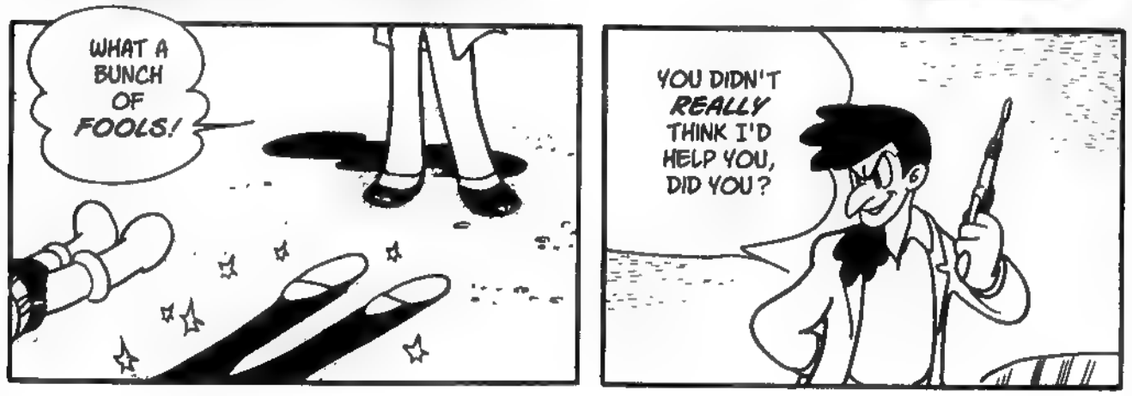
DR. TENMA !!

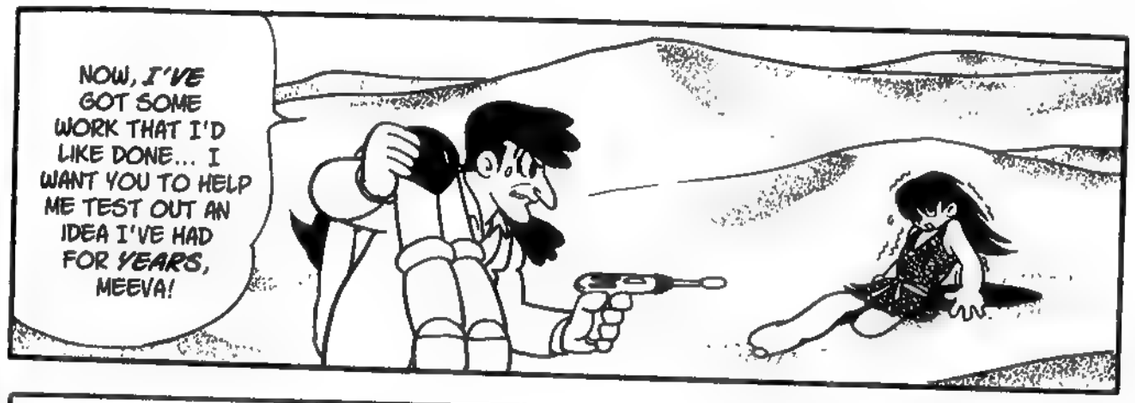
BZZAP
BZZAP
BZZAP
SORRY TO DO THIS TO YOU, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO SLEEP FOR A BIT...

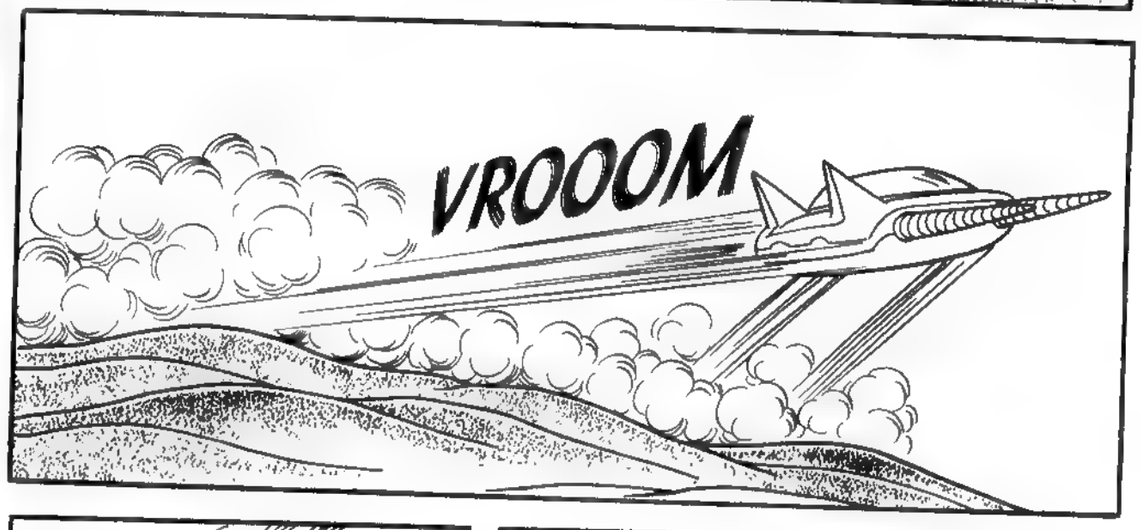


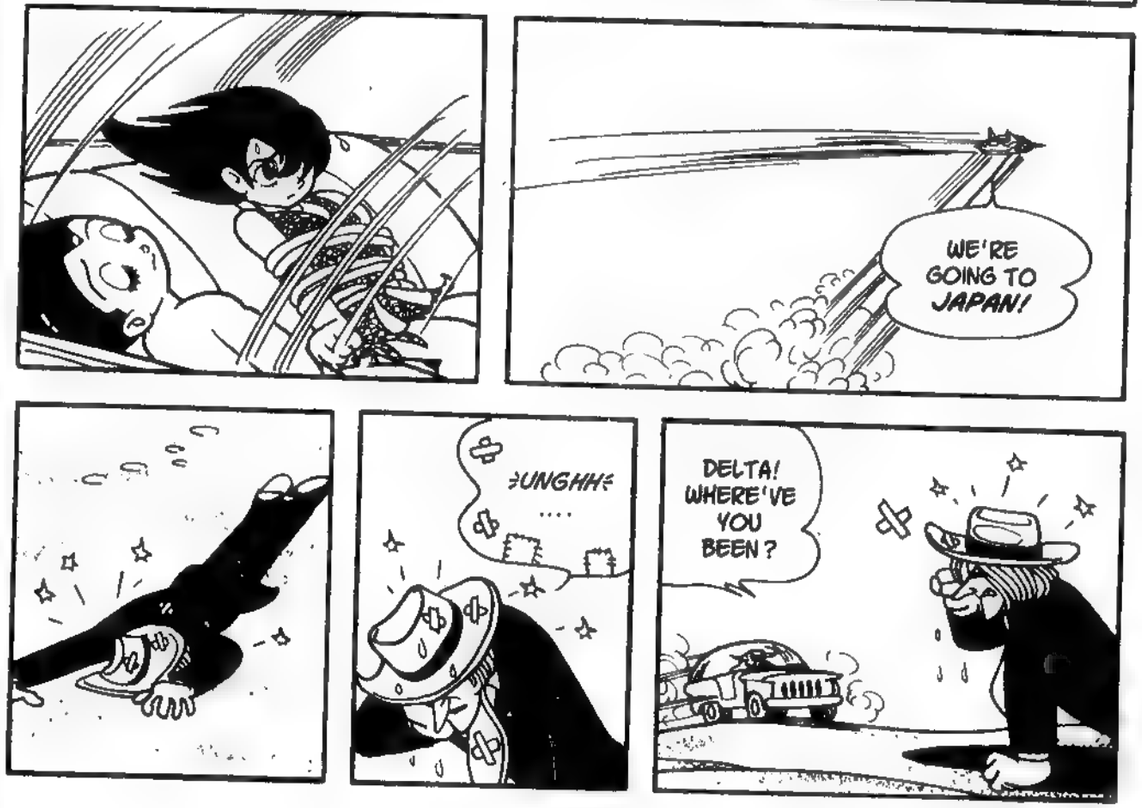

A-ASTRO!
WELL DONE, DR. TENMA! WITH YOUR HELP, WE WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE MEEVA WITHOUT A HITCH!


I COULDN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO MEEVA, ALL BECAUSE OF THIS ROBOT...
BONK


WHAT A BUNCH OF FOOLS!
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D HELP YOU, DID YOU?


NOW, I'VE GOT SOME WORK THAT I'D LIKE DONE... I WANT YOU TO HELP ME TEST OUT AN IDEA I'VE HAD FOR YEARS, MEEVA!


VROOOM


WE'RE GOING TO JAPAN!
GUNGHH
....
DELTA! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?

TENMA'S KIDNAPPED MEEVA, BOSS!

YOU MEAN THAT LOW-DOWN SCOUNDREL TRICKED US?!

LISTEN, DELTA... GET YOUR ASSASSINS TOGETHER, AND GO AFTER TENMA! WE CAN'T LET ANY *TRAITORS* TO OUR CAUSE LIVE!

VROOOM

BUT WHATEVER YOU DO, BRING THE MEEVA BACK ALIVE 'N UNHARMED! UNDERSTAND?

FOLLOW THEM ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN IF YOU HAVE TO!

WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOOSH

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE RUN INTO A MAJOR *STORM!*

...HERE'S HOPING THIS AIRCAR CAN RIDE IT OUT!

LISTEN, MEEVA... I'M TAKING YOU TO JAPAN BECAUSE I REALLY NEED YOUR *HELP* NOW... UNDERSTAND? DON'T BE TOO HARD ON ME, OKAY?

YOU'RE A LIVING TIME MACHINE, AND I REALLY NEED YOUR HELP TO GET HOLD OF SOMETHING SPECIFIC...

I'M SURE YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS, AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT...

WHA?! WHAT'S THAT?

THAT THING JUST APPEARED OUT OF *NOWHERE!!*

HOLY COW! IT'S COMING AFTER US!!

IT... IT'S CHANGING SHAPE, TOO!!

MEEVA! IS THIS SOME KIND OF MONSTER YOU CALLED UP?

I... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

IT'S SLIPPING 'ROUND THE FRONT OF US!

IT'S MY MOTHER!!

YOUR WHAT?!

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS, MEEVA! THIS IS THE STRANGEST THING I'VE SEEN IN MY LIFE!

M-MOTHER!!!

VROOOOM

IT'S CHANGING SHAPE *AGAIN!* THE THING'S LIKE *SPAGHETTI!!*

WAIT A MINUTE... NOW SOME *OTHER* THINGS HAVE APPEARED!

POP POP POP

UH OH!

WHY, YOU...

RATATATATATAT RATATATAT

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

THIS IS LIKE A *BAD DREAM!*

NOOOMG

NYU NYU

CHAK

UH OH... IT'S REALLY GOT US NOW...

WAIT, DR. TENMA!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHO CALLED ME? CAN THIS MONSTER REALLY *TALK*?

I MAY APPEAR AS A MONSTER TO YOU, DR. TENMA, BUT I AM NOT...

I AM A CREATURE YOU MENTIONED... A FOURTH-DIMENSION LIFE FORM!

SO *THAT'S* IT...

Y-YOU MEAN YOU'RE MEEVA'S MOTHER?

YES... I AM...

NO! YOU'RE *LYING*!

MY MOTHER NEVER LOOKED LIKE A MONSTER!

WHAT THE --?!

HOLY SMOKE!

OUR SHAPES ARE NOT DEFINED IN THE THIRD-DIMENSION WORLD... SURELY YOU UNDERSTAND THIS, DR. TENMA!

ER... ACTUALLY, I DO...

MOTHER ....

...WHY DID YOU ABANDON ME?!

YOU WERE ILL, MEEVA! IF I HAD LEFT YOU IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION, YOU WOULD HAVE DIED!

IT BROKE MY HEART TO DO SO, BUT I HAD TO ABANDON YOU IN THE THREE DIMENSIONAL WORLD!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, MOTHER!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ABANDONED ME! I WANT TO GO HOME! I'LL DO *ANYTHING* TO GO HOME! I'LL SHOW YOU!

MEEVA!

TRY TO UNDERSTAND YOUR MOTHER'S FEELINGS, MEEVA... WITH YOUR BODY, YOU'LL DIE IF YOU GO HOME!!

NO! I WANT TO GO HOME!

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU, DR. TENMA...

WH-WHAT IS IT?

WHEN I SENT MEEVA TO YOUR WORLD, I TRIED TO ERASE ALL OF HIS MEMORIES...

...BUT IT APPEARS THAT I FAILED... MEEVA SEEMS TO RECALL THE POWER OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION!

IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S ABLE TO MANIPULATE TIME!

YOU MEAN HE CAN SUMMON THE PAST, RIGHT?

YES... BUT IF HE EXERTS HIMSELF ANY MORE....

...HE MIGHT DIE.

LISTEN, DR. TENMA! YOU ARE A FAMOUS SCIENTIST IN THE WORLD OF THREE DIMENSIONS! I BEG YOU... PLEASE DON'T LET MEEVA USE UP HIS SPECIAL POWERS!

IF HE USES HIS POWERS EVEN TWO OR THREE TIMES MORE, HE'LL BE IN GRAVE DANGER!

YOU MUST HELP ME, TENMA! FAREWELL, MEEVA!

FLASH

HOLY COW...

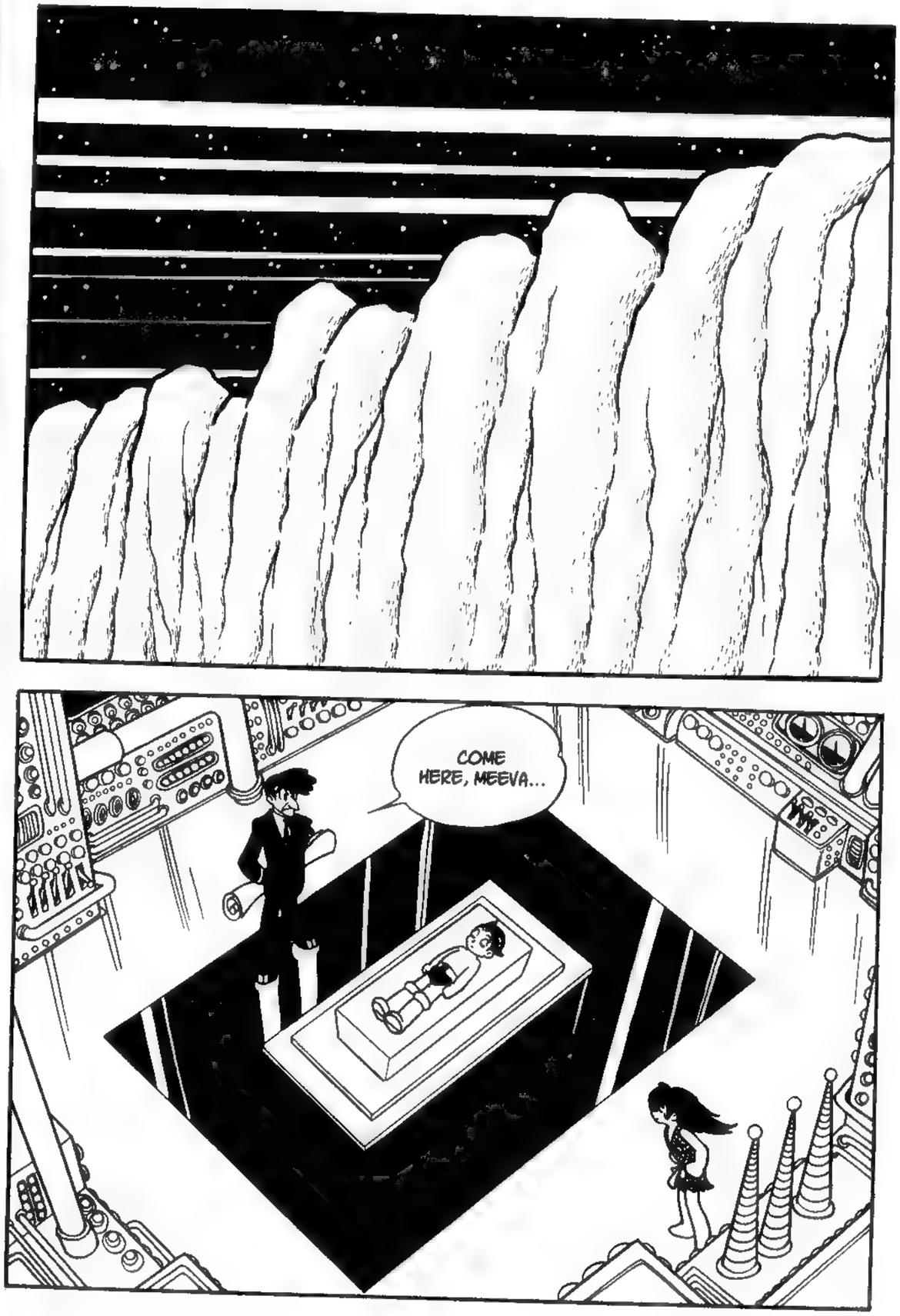
SHE VANISHED!

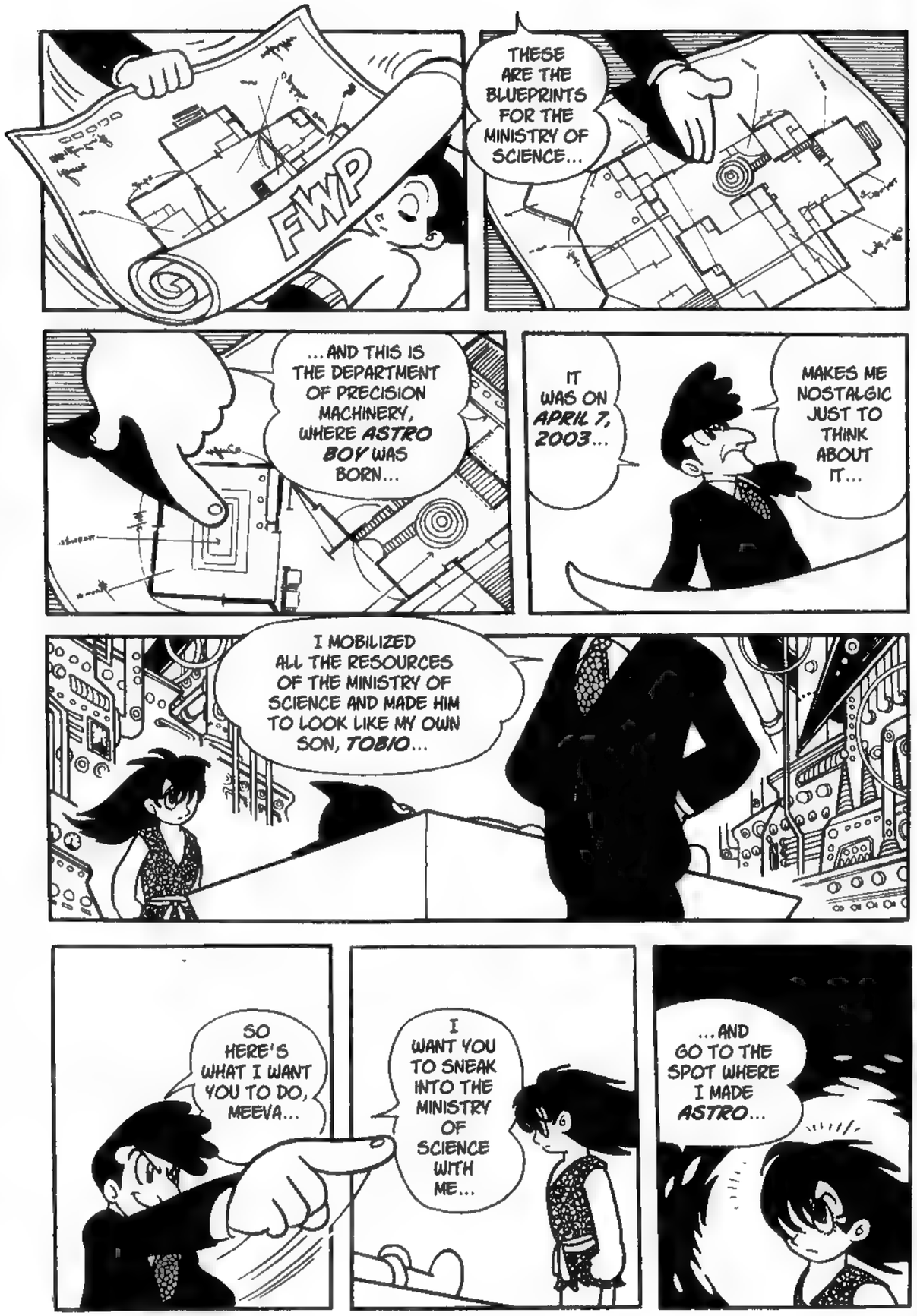
I WASN'T DREAMING, WAS I, MEEVA?!

AND IF I WASN'T...

...YOUR MOTHER MUST HAVE MATERIALIZED BECAUSE SHE WANTS TO *MEET YOU*, RIGHT?

SHE DOESN'T *WANT* YOU TO USE YOUR SPECIAL POWERS!
BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP SO EASILY!
I'LL GO BACK TO JAPAN ....
I'LL MAKE YOU DEMON-STRATE YOUR POWERS! THAT'S WHY I'M TAKING YOU TO JAPAN, AFTER ALL!
I DON'T *CARE* IF IT WEAKENS YOU!
NO ONE'S GOING TO STOP *ME! HA HA HA!*


COME HERE, MEEVA...


FWP
THESE ARE THE BLUEPRINTS FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...
...AND THIS IS THE DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION MACHINERY, WHERE ASTRO BOY WAS BORN...
IT WAS ON APRIL 7, 2003...
MAKES ME NOSTALGIC JUST TO THINK ABOUT IT...
I MOBILIZED ALL THE RESOURCES OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND MADE HIM TO LOOK LIKE MY OWN SON, TOBIO...
SO HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO, MEEVA...
I WANT YOU TO SNEAK INTO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE WITH ME...
...AND GO TO THE SPOT WHERE I MADE ASTRO...

...THEN I WANT YOU TO STEAL THE BRAND-NEW ASTRO FROM THE PAST AND BRING HIM BACK TO THE PRESENT! GOT IT?
B-BUT ASTRO'S RIGHT HERE!
I KNOW THAT, YOU IDIOT!!
I DON'T NEED THIS ASTRO ANYMORE! I WANT A BRAND NEW ONE!
NOW, I KNOW THAT IF WE BRING AN ASTRO FROM THE PAST...
...AND IT'S THE SAME AS THE ONE HERE, THIS ONE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO DISAPPEAR...
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER... I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR ATTACHMENT TO THIS ONE...
BEEEP BEEEEP BEEEP
HEH, HEH... THEY'RE HERE...

C'MON OUT, TENMA! YOU'RE A *TRAITOR* AND A SCIENTIFIC *FRAUD!* MY BOSS, MR. DAMOCLES, HAS ORDERED ME TO FINISH YOU OFF!

BUT FIRST OF ALL, WHERE'S *MEEVA* P! BRING HIM HERE!!

WELL, WELL... CONGRATULATIONS ON MAKING IT ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN, DELTA...

I'VE PREPARED A LITTLE *WELCOME* FOR YOU, MY FRIEND... A VERY *NICE* ONE, IN FACT...

CHANK

KASHUNK

KASHUNK

YIKES! WATCH OUT!!

DON'T PANIC, IT'S ONLY A *ROBOT*, YOU IDIOTS!

SINCE WHEN DO PROFESSIONAL KILLERS LET A *ROBOT* SCARE THEM?! *ZAP* HIM!

ZAP ZAP ZAP

WHOOOSH

WHOOOSH WHOOOSH

SHWOOP

HE'S SUCKING US IN! GRAB ONTO SOMETHING!

GRABBING MY LEGS WON'T HELP, YOU NUMBSKULL!

LAST MAN IN...!

WHOOOSH

LEMME OUT!

BLAST THAT COWARDLY TENMA!!

SMASH THIS THING!

EEK! ARGH! UGH! AIIEEE!

KASHUNK

KASHUNK

RUMBLE RUMBLE

SQUISH SQUISH

KAWHUNK

OOMPH ...

THUMP KATHUD

WAY TO GO! TAKE 'EM TO AN ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC AND *DUMP* 'EM!!

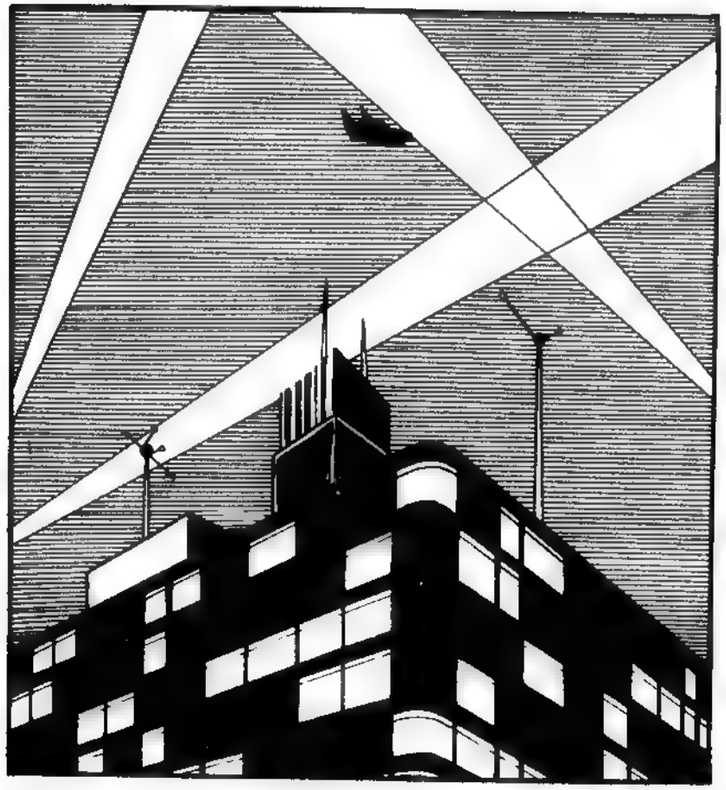
WELL, THAT TAKES CARE OF THE INTERLOPERS, MEEVA...

NOW'S OUR CHANCE! LET'S GO TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!

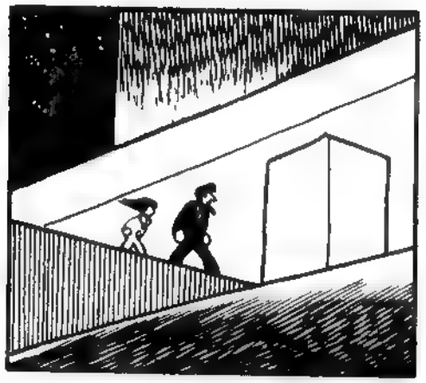
IF WE LEAVE NOW, WE'LL ARRIVE THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

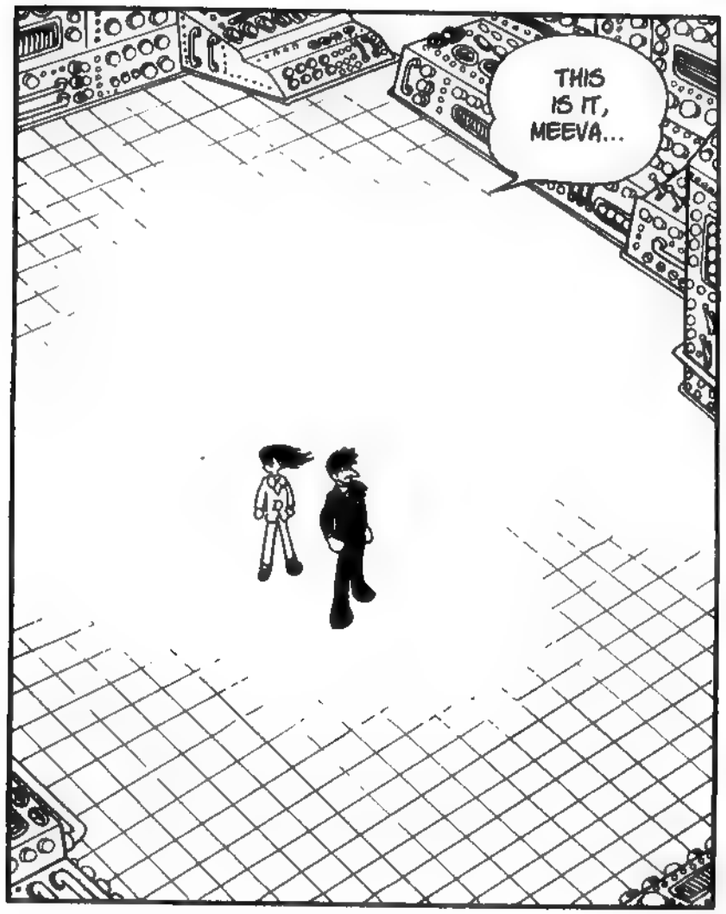
I COULDN'T STOP TENMA FROM LEAVING...

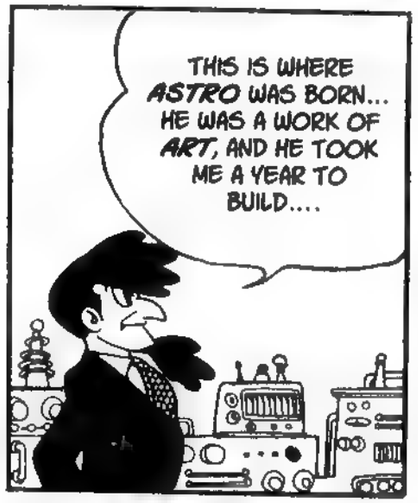
...BUT WHILE HE'S GONE, I'LL CASE OUT HIS *HOUSE*...

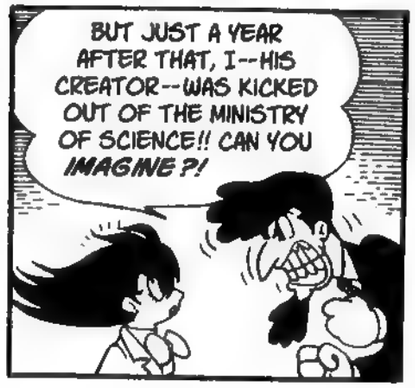


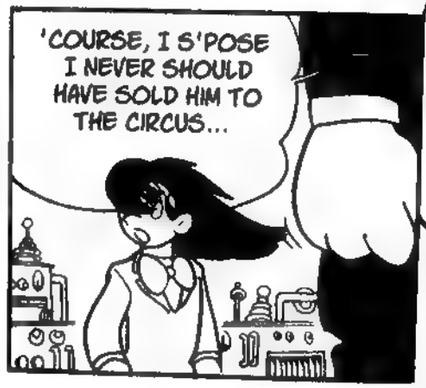
HERE WE ARE, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION MACHINERY...




THIS IS IT, MEEVA...


THIS IS WHERE ASTRO WAS BORN... HE WAS A WORK OF ART, AND HE TOOK ME A YEAR TO BUILD....

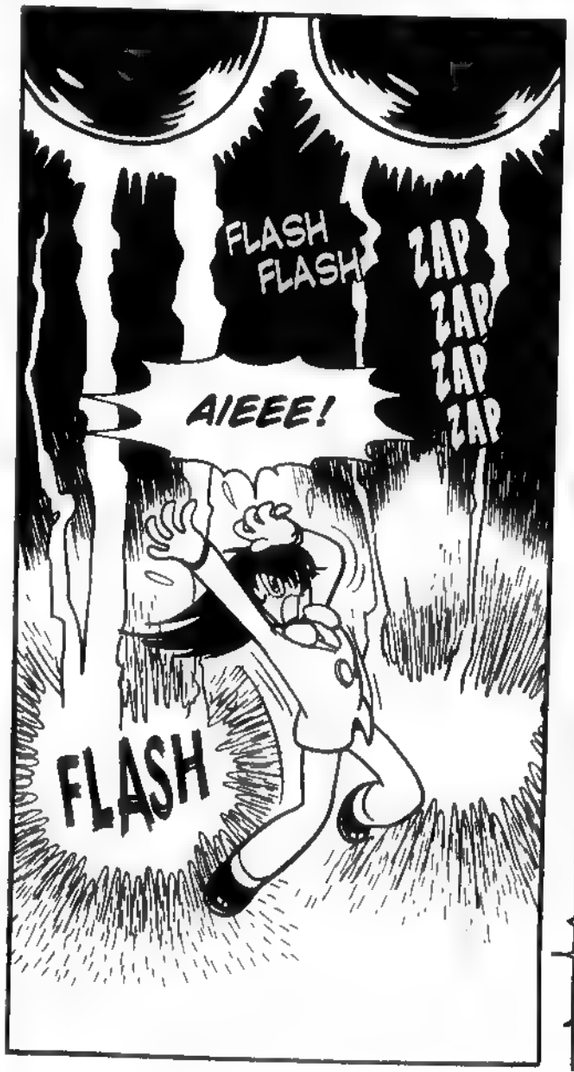

BUT JUST A YEAR AFTER THAT, I--HIS CREATOR--WAS KICKED OUT OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!! CAN YOU IMAGINE?!

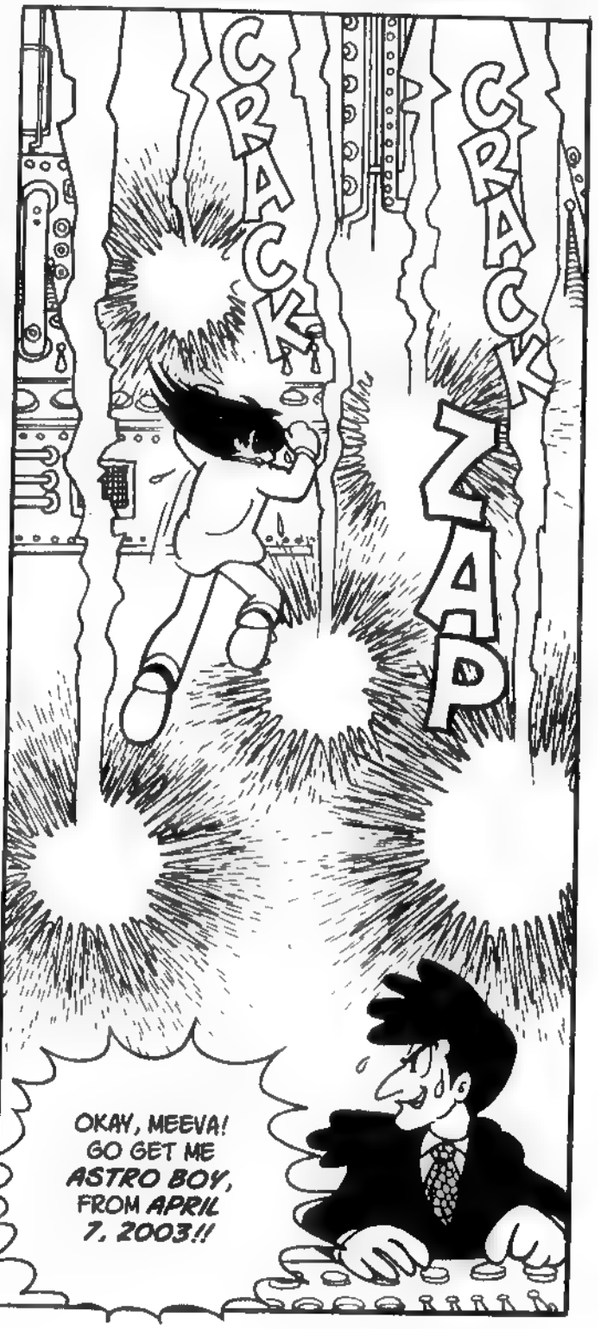

'COURSE, I S'POSE I NEVER SHOULD HAVE SOLD HIM TO THE CIRCUS...

BUT LISTEN, MEEVA.... THIS TIME I WANT TO DO THINGS RIGHT! I WANT TO RAISE ASTRO FROM THE BEGINNING AGAIN, BY MYSELF!! THAT'S WHY I NEED A NEW ASTRO!

NO ONE UNDER-STANDS MY FEEL-INGS...
...BUT I DON'T CARE ...

BZZZT


FLASH
FLASH
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
AIEEE!
FLASH


CRACK
CRACK
ZAP
OKAY, MEEVA! GO GET ME ASTRO BOY, FROM APRIL 7, 2003!!

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

APRIL 7, 2003!!

ZAP

ZAP FLASH RUMBLE

IT... IT WORK-ED!!!

GASP

A...ASTRO!!

JUST LIKE I REMEMBER YOU!

WHA?!

LISTEN, ASTRO... I'M YOUR *FATHER!!* UNDERSTAND?!

STAND UP! FROM NOW ON YOU'RE MY *SON!*

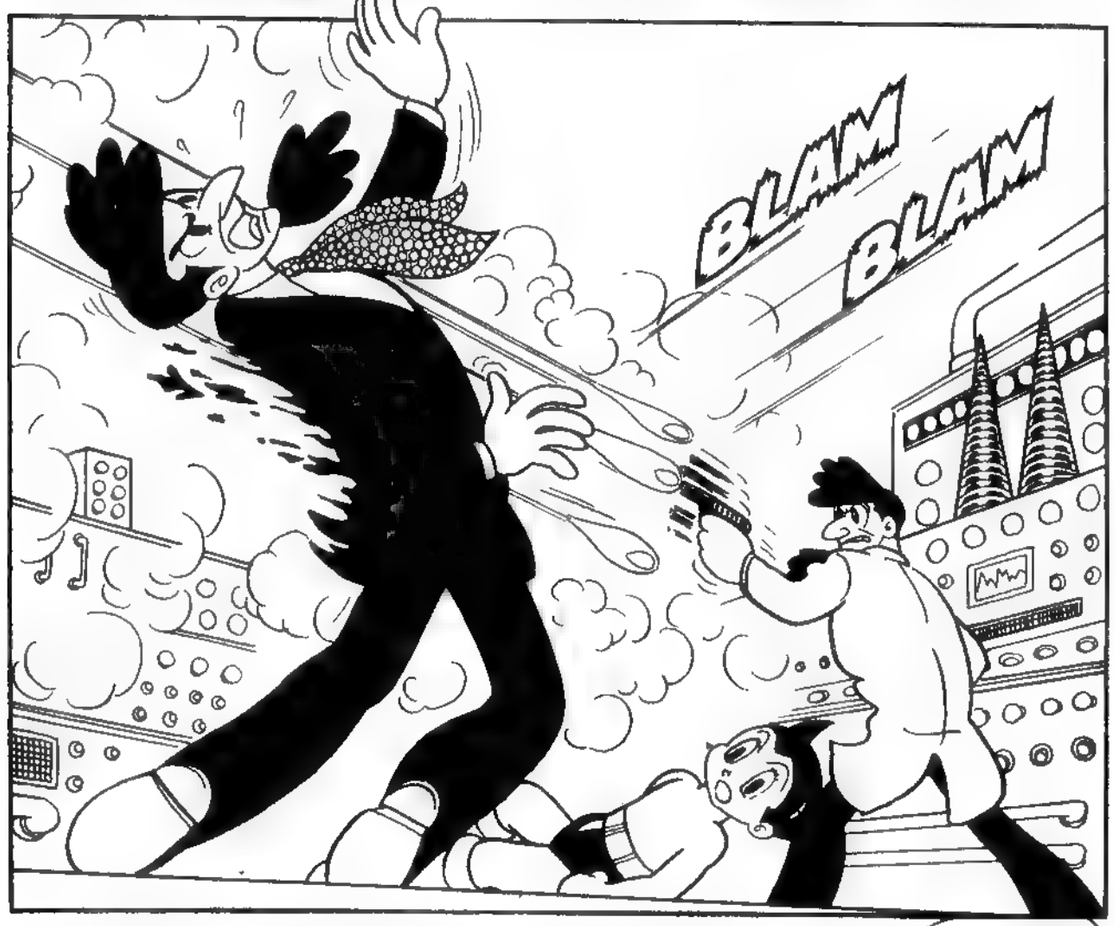
MY *NEW* SON!

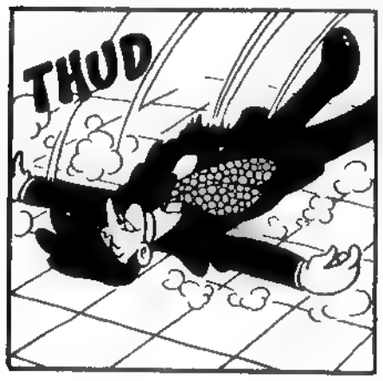
?

NOT SO FAST, TENMA!!

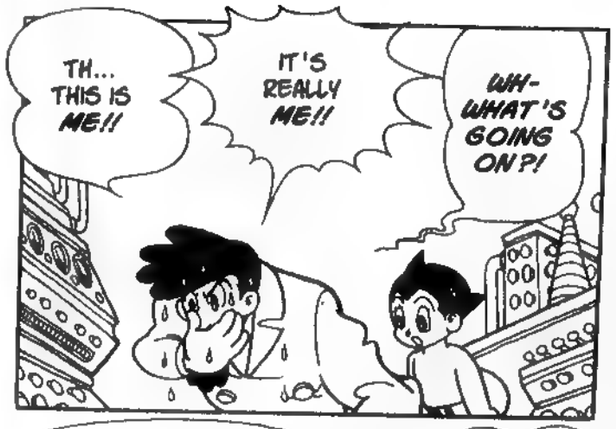
WHAT THE--?! THERE'S ANOTHER ME HERE!!
AND WHO ARE YOU?! THINK YOU CAN STEAL ASTRO FROM ME, DO YOU?

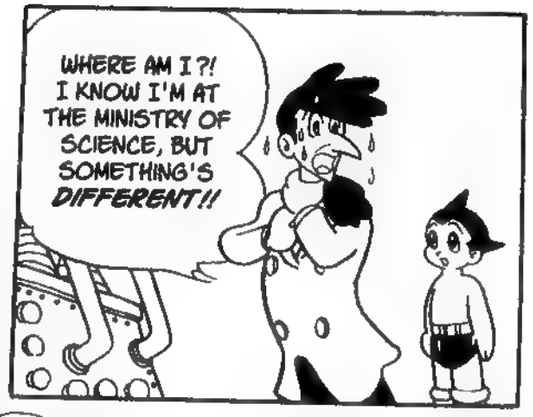
UH OH... MEEVA MUST'VE BROUGHT ANOTHER ME BACK FROM APRIL 7, 2003!
HOW DARE YOU SNEAK INTO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE ME?! YOU DISGUSTING THIEF!!


BLAM
BLAM


THUD

WAIT A MINUTE...

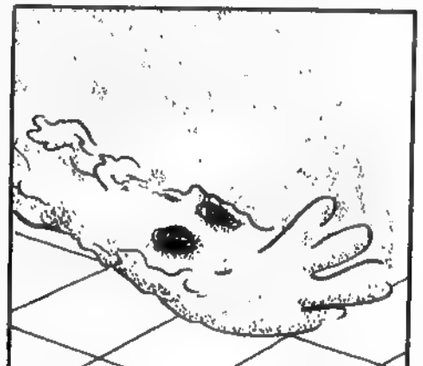

TH... THIS IS ME!!
IT'S REALLY ME!!
WH- WHAT'S GOING ON?!

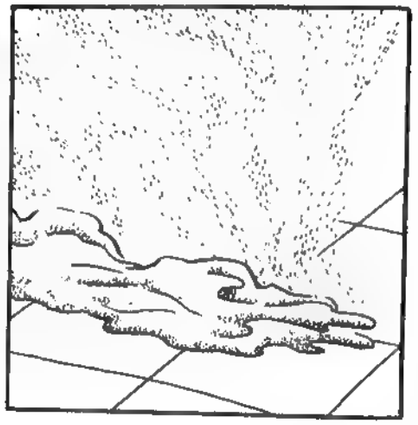

WHERE AM I?! I KNOW I'M AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, BUT SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT!!

AND I'VE SHOT MY OWN SELF!!

I DON'T GET IT! I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING MY MIND....

UH OH... THE OTHER ME'S DISINTEGRATING! H... HE'S TURNING INTO ASHES!!
FSSSHT!





MEANWHILE, BACK AT DR. TENMA'S LABORATORY....

A SIMILAR THING WAS HAPPENING....

HEH HEH! HOW 'BOUT THAT? ASTRO BOY'S ASLEEP HERE...

THIS ROBOT BUGS ME AS MUCH AS TENMA, SO I OUGHTA POLISH HIM OFF RIGHT *NOW*....

HUHN?!

ASTRO'S *DISINTE-GRATING!*

IT'S THE SAME THING THAT MEEVA CAUSES!

WHAT'S GOING ON!!

UMPH!...

HE'S *DISAPPEARED*... WITHOUT A *TRACE!*

KAPOW!

KASHUNK

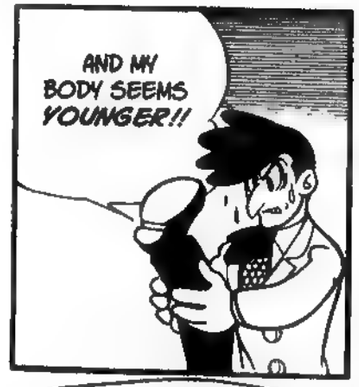
GUNGHE...

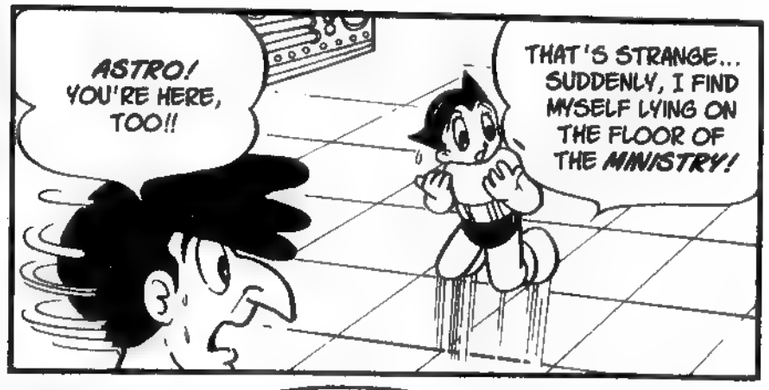
WH... WHERE AM I?

SOME-THING'S WEIRD....

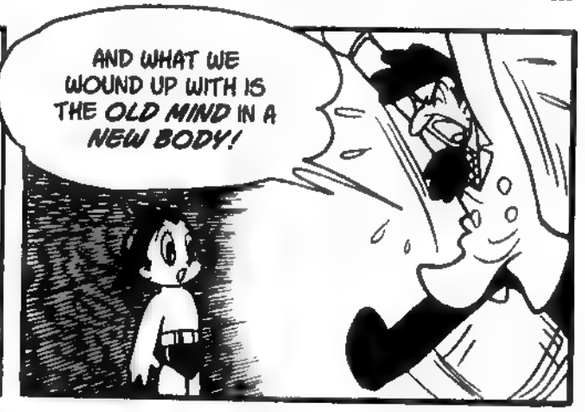
I KNOW I WAS SHOT BY ANOTHER ME, BUT AFTER THAT I DON'T REMEMBER A THING...

... AND I DON'T HAVE ANY BULLET HOLES!


AND MY BODY SEEMS YOUNGER!!


ASTRO! YOU'RE HERE, TOO!!
THAT'S STRANGE... SUDDENLY, I FIND MYSELF LYING ON THE FLOOR OF THE MINISTRY!

WAIT A MINUTE! I GET IT!! BECAUSE THERE WERE TWO OF US, ONE HAD TO DISAPPEAR....
?


AND WHAT WE WOUND UP WITH IS THE OLD MIND IN A NEW BODY!

MEEVA!

GET UP, MEEVA!!

GET UP AND DO IT OVER!! AND MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S NEW!! YOU'VE GOT TO SUMMON THE PAST AGAIN, MEEVA!

WELL?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MEEVA?!

DO AS I SAY!!

DR. TENMA!! STOP!

MEEVA'S EXHAUSTED! IF HE HAS TO DO THAT AGAIN, HE MIGHT EVEN DIE!

WHAT'D YOU SAY?

MEEVA'S NOT YOURS, ASTRO! HE'S MINE!

NO! MEEVA DOESN'T BELOW TO ANYONE, DR. TENMA! HE'S FREE!

ASTRO! HOW DARE YOU DEFY ME!!

WOOSH!

KABASH

BLAST IT! THEY'RE GONE!

MEEVA'S A TIME MACHINE WORTH HIS WEIGHT IN GOLD! I'LL NEVER LET HIM GET AWAY!

MOM!!

ASTRO! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?!

MY DEAR *BABY*! YOU'VE COME HOME! WE WERE *SO* WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!

I'M SORRY, MOM....

WHAT?! ASTRO'S *BACK?!*

WHO'S THAT GUY, ASTRO? A *HUMAN?*

YEAH, WHO IS THAT, ASTRO?

HE'S *MEEVA*, AND HE'S NEEDS HELP...

I NEED YOU TO HIDE HIM FOR AWHILE, MOM 'N DAD...

IF *YOU* SAY IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO, SON, WE'LL DO IT!

WE JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE AN EXTRA BED...

HEY, COBALT! LOOK! SOMEBODY'S *COMING!*

ZOOM

KERSMASH

SAY, GO EASY ON THE THROTTLE, THERE... WE *LIVE* HERE!

YOU'RE ASTRO'S *FOSTER DAD*, AREN'T YOU? I NEED A WORD WITH ASTRO!

FOSTER DAD? NO WAY! I'M HIS *REAL* DAD!

REAL DAD?! *HMPH!* SINCE WHEN DO *ROBOTS* HAVE REAL CHILDREN OR PARENTS?! AND BESIDES, YOU WERE BORN *AFTER* HIM, RIGHT?!

.....
.....

WHAT DO YOU WANT, DR. TENMA...?

I WANT TO MEET *ASTRO*... YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME SEE HIM!

I'M SORRY, DR. TENMA, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU NOW... HE'S RESTING UPSTAIRS...

GRRRRR

FSSSSHT

LISTEN, PAL... I *CREATED* ASTRO! IF ANYONE'S ASTRO'S FATHER, IT'S *ME!* *UNDERSTAND?!*

I HAVE A *RIGHT* TO SEE HIM!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU DID MAKE HIM! IN THE LOCAL FAMILY REGISTRY, HE'S LISTED AS *OUR* CHILD NOW!!

I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* OF THIS!

AGGGAGAGAAH!...

SPRONNGG

STOP!

WHAP

.....

.....

ARGHA!

ARGHUM!

....

LISTEN, YOU'VE *GOT* TO GIVE ASTRO BACK TO ME...

NEVER! ASTRO BELONGS TO *US*, DR. TENMA!

WELL, IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, YOU GIVE ME *NO* CHOICE...

GO AHEAD AND SHOOT IF YOU WANT! BUT EVEN IF YOU DESTROY US, HE *STILL* WON'T BE YOURS!!

.....

.....

I'M SORRY... I GIVE UP...

I JUST WANTED ASTRO BACK, THAT'S ALL... I THOUGHT IF I COULD GET A BRAND-NEW ASTRO, HE COULD BE MY *SON* AGAIN... SO I TRIED TO USE MEEVA TO BRING ME A *NEW* ASTRO FROM THE PAST...

I *KNOW* IT WAS A CRAZY THING TO DO... BUT WHEN I LEARNED I COULDN'T HAVE A BRAND-NEW ASTRO, I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD GET YOU TO LET ME HAVE THE OLD ONE...

I'M *SORRY*... I KNOW IT'S NOT POSSIBLE...

YOU *WIN*... I KNOW YOU'RE HIS REAL MOM AND DAD NOW...

YOU'RE BOTH WONDERFUL PARENTS...

I KNOW YOU CAN MAKE HIM HAPPY...

I'LL NEVER COME HERE AGAIN... I *PROMISE*...

GIVE MY REGARDS TO ASTRO...

YIKES!

HEH HEH! WE MEET AGAIN, TENMA!

YOU MAY HAVE GIVEN UP, BUT I HAVEN'T!!

AND I HAVEN'T PAID YOU BACK YET, EITHER, FOR *BETRAYING* ME!!

YOU *STOLE* MEEVA, AND *INTERFERED* WITH MY PLANS, AND I'M *NOT* GOING TO LET YOU OFF THE HOOK!

KACHANG

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER, TENMA!

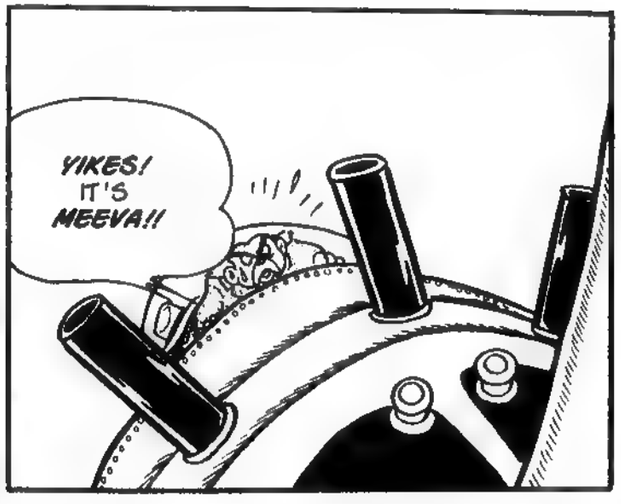
WATCH OUT, DR. TENMA!

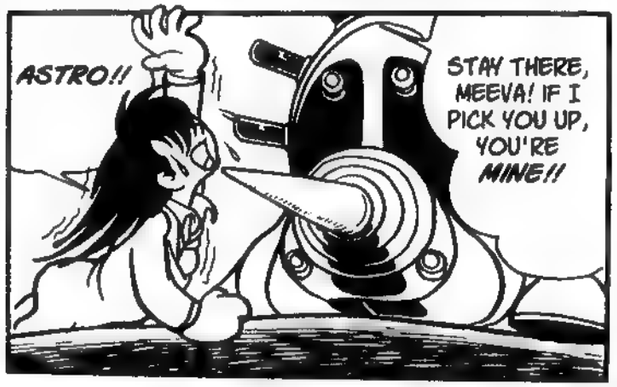
WHAP!

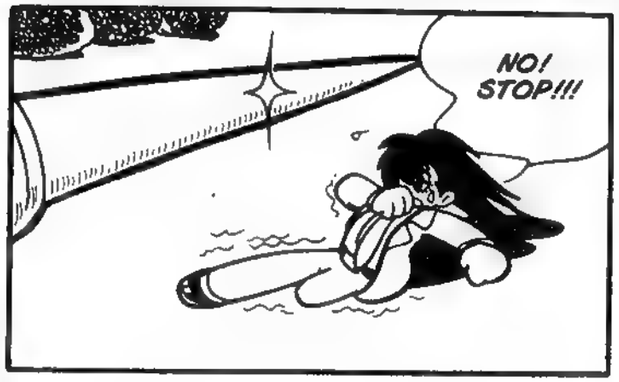
ASTRO!!

WHAT THE --?!

KERTHUD


YIKES! IT'S MEEVA!!


ASTRO!!
STAY THERE, MEEVA! IF I PICK YOU UP, YOU'RE MINE!!


NO! STOP!!!

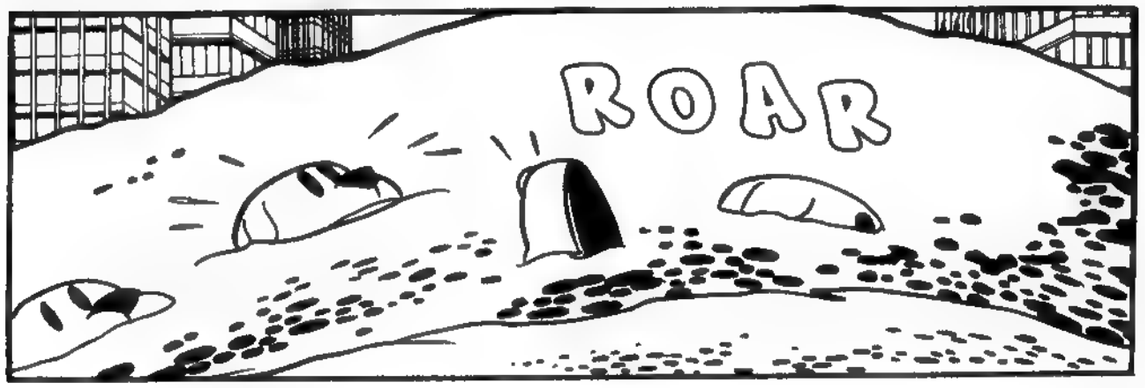
TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO....

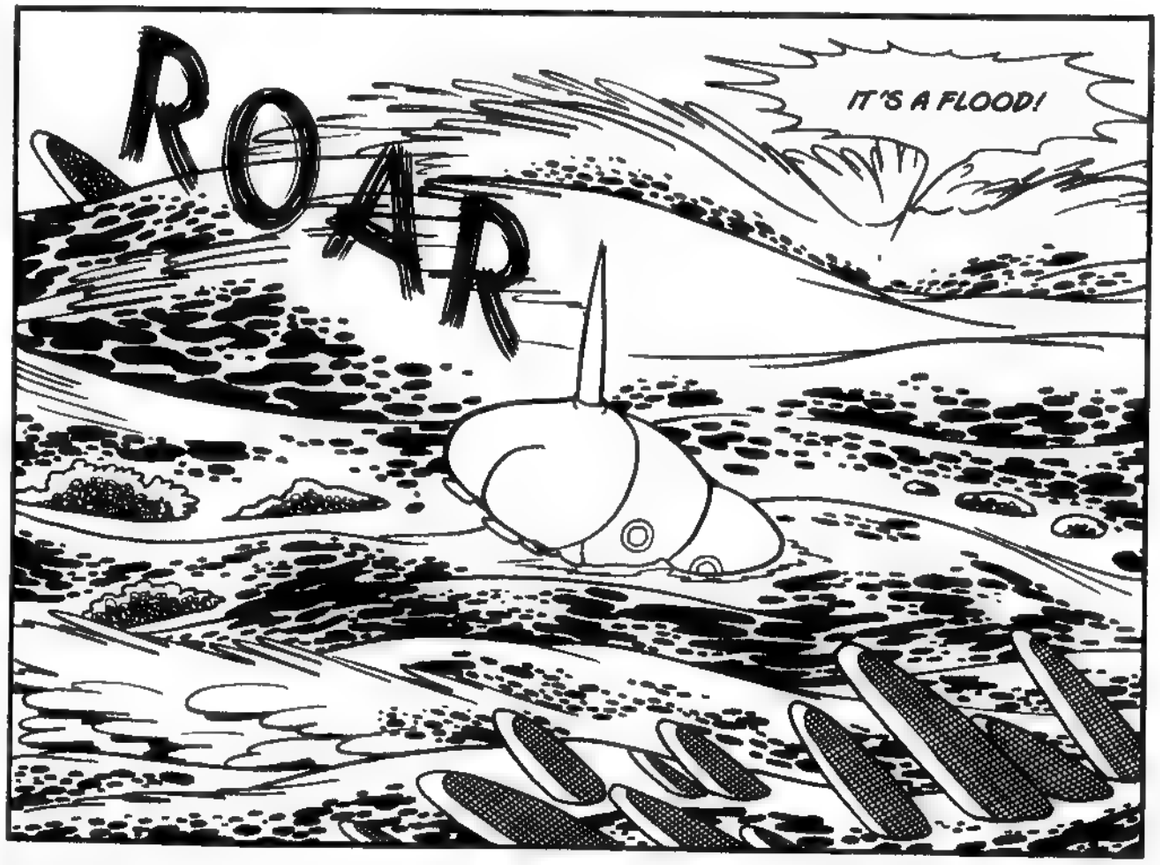
?
SHWWWWWWOOSH

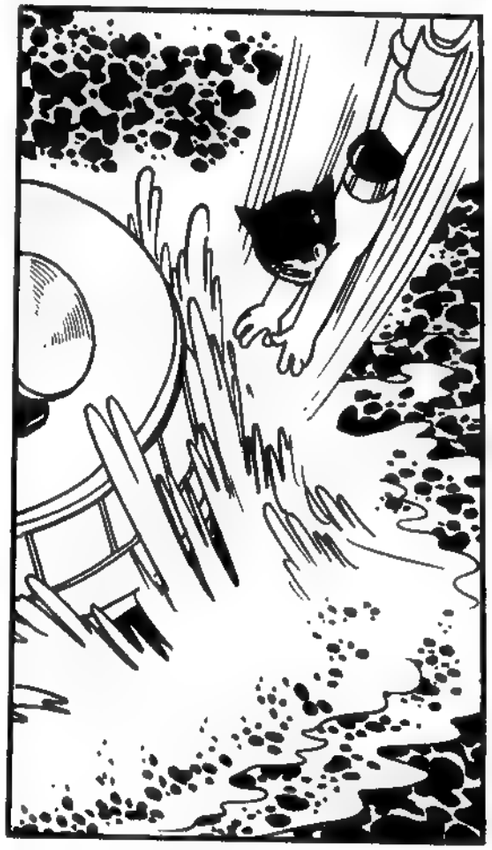
KASPLOOOOOSH

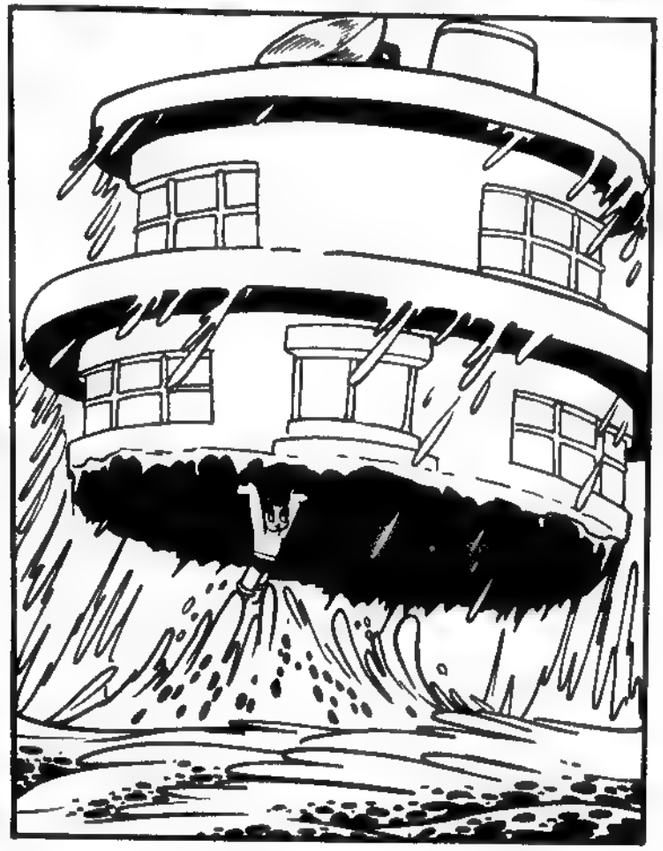
VOOOOSH

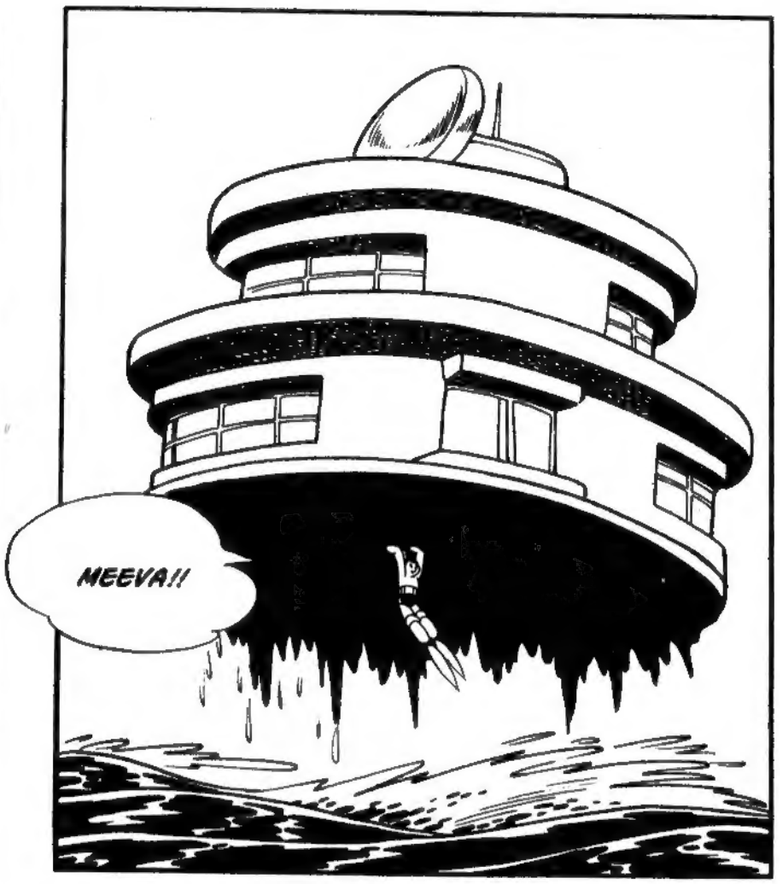
WHEE
WHEEE
WHEE


ROAR


ROAR
IT'S A FLOOD!

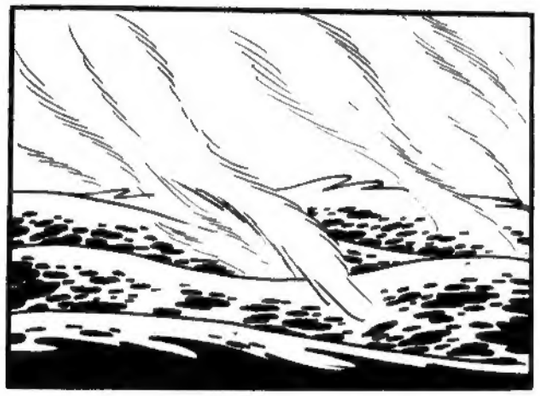


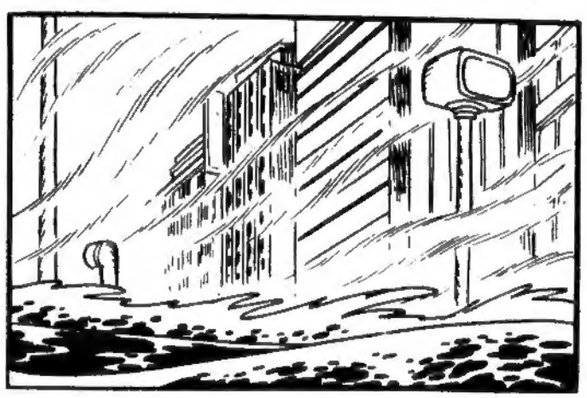


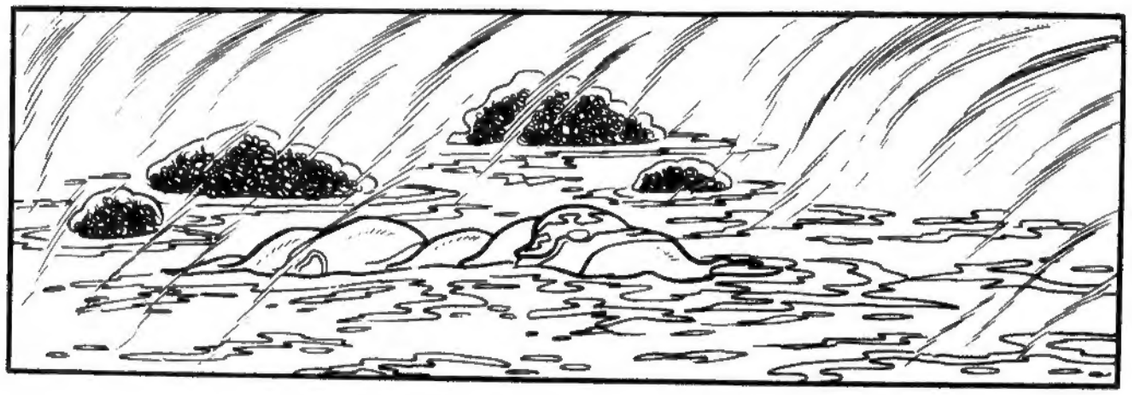

MEEVA!!

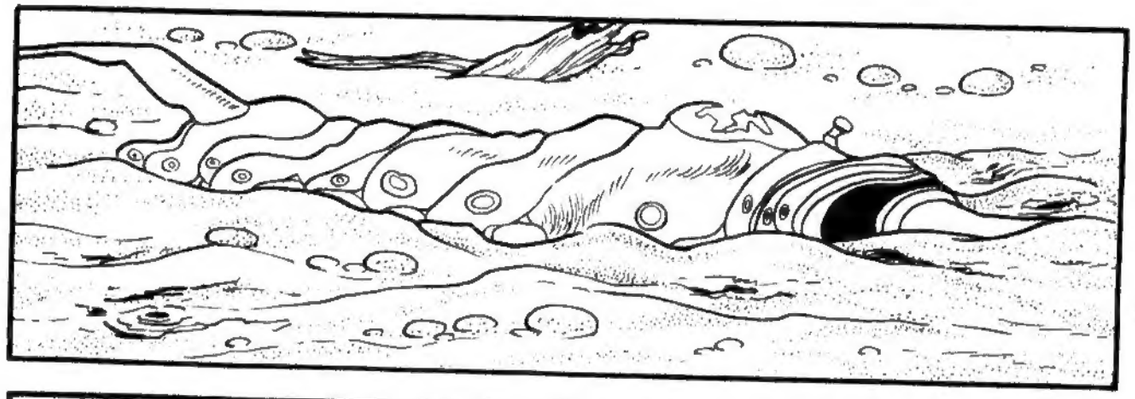
MEEVA MADE ANCIENT JAPAN REAPPEAR!

AND COME TO THINK OF IT...
...IN ANCIENT TIMES JAPAN WAS UNDER THE SEA!

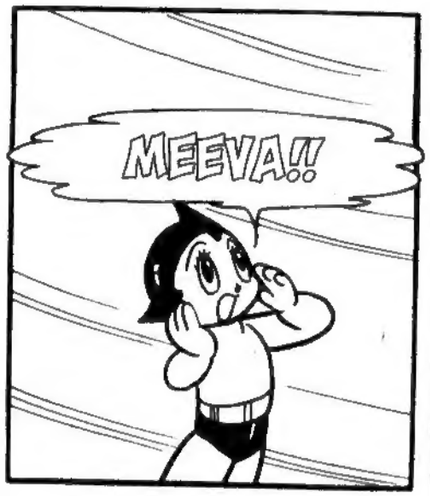


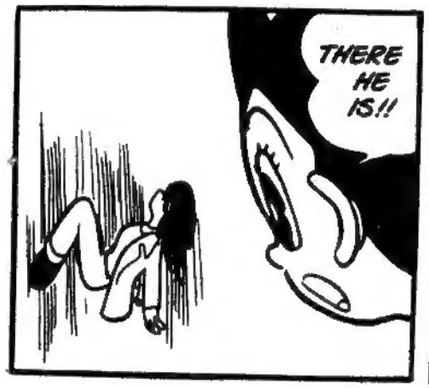


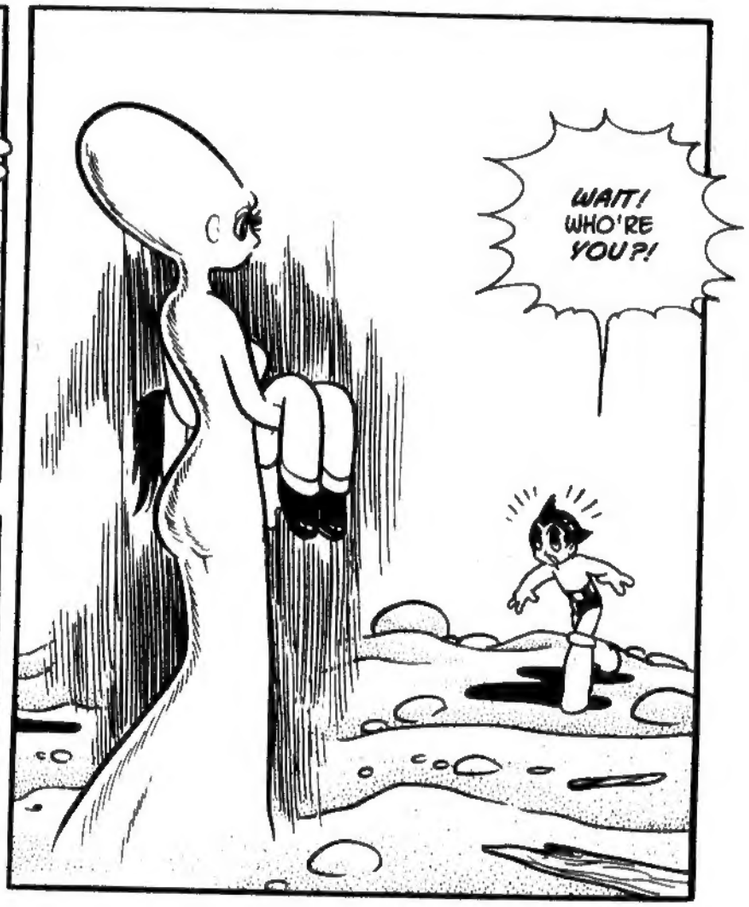




MEEVA!


MEEVA!!


THERE HE IS!!


WAIT! WHO'RE YOU?!

I AM MEEVA'S MOTHER, ASTRO BOY

HIS *MOTHER* ?!

MEEVA IS DEAD NOW...

DEAD ?!

YES... HE DIED AFTER USING UP ALL OF HIS POWER... HE DIED OF EXHAUSTION...

I TRIED TO GET DR. TENMA TO STOP, BUT IT WAS NO USE...

POOR MEEVA...

I SHALL NOW TAKE MEEVA'S BODY BACK TO THE FOURTH DIMENSION...

BUT HE TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU THIS MESSAGE BEFORE HE DIED...

HE SAID TO SAY, THANK YOU...

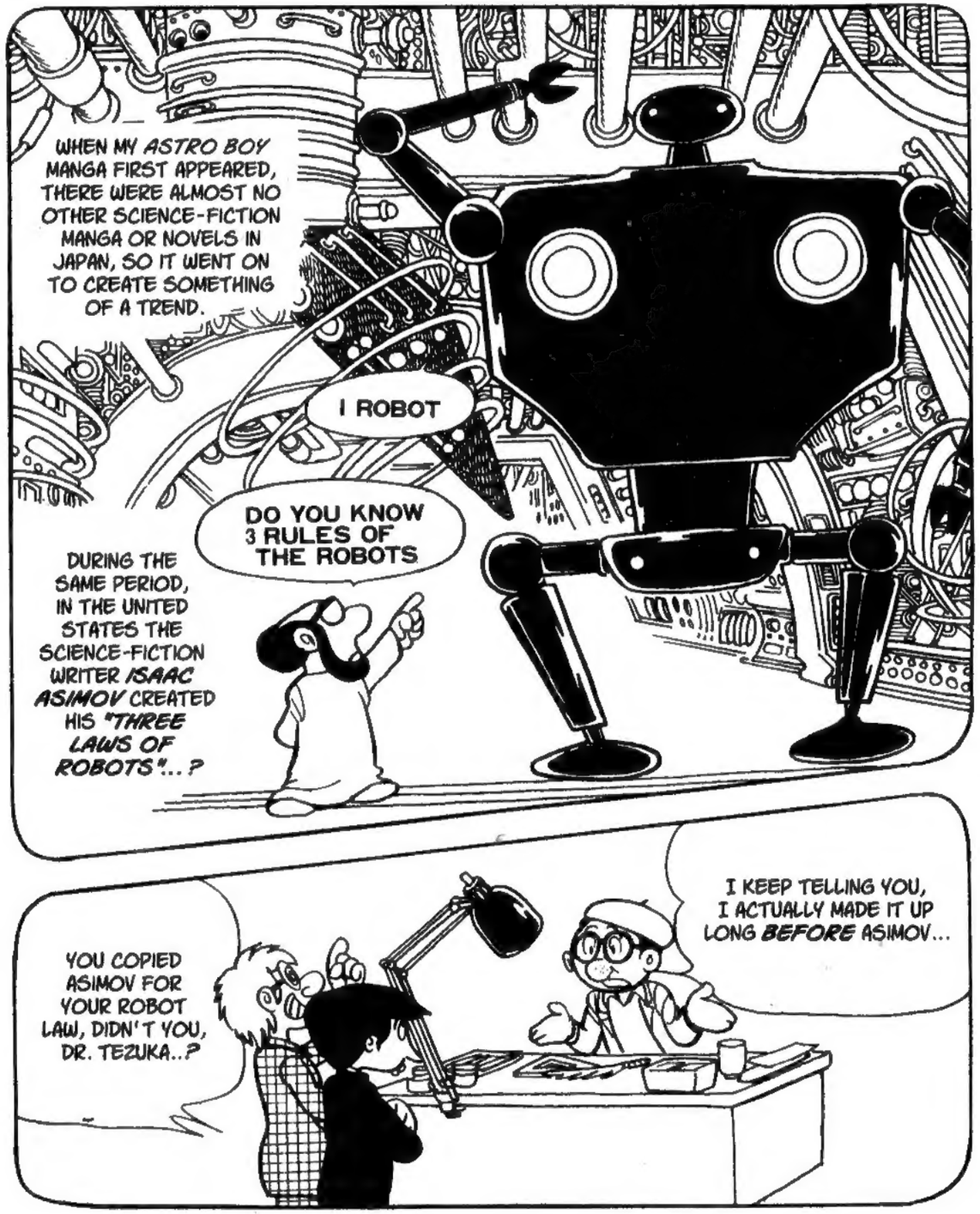
GOSH, POOR MEEVA...

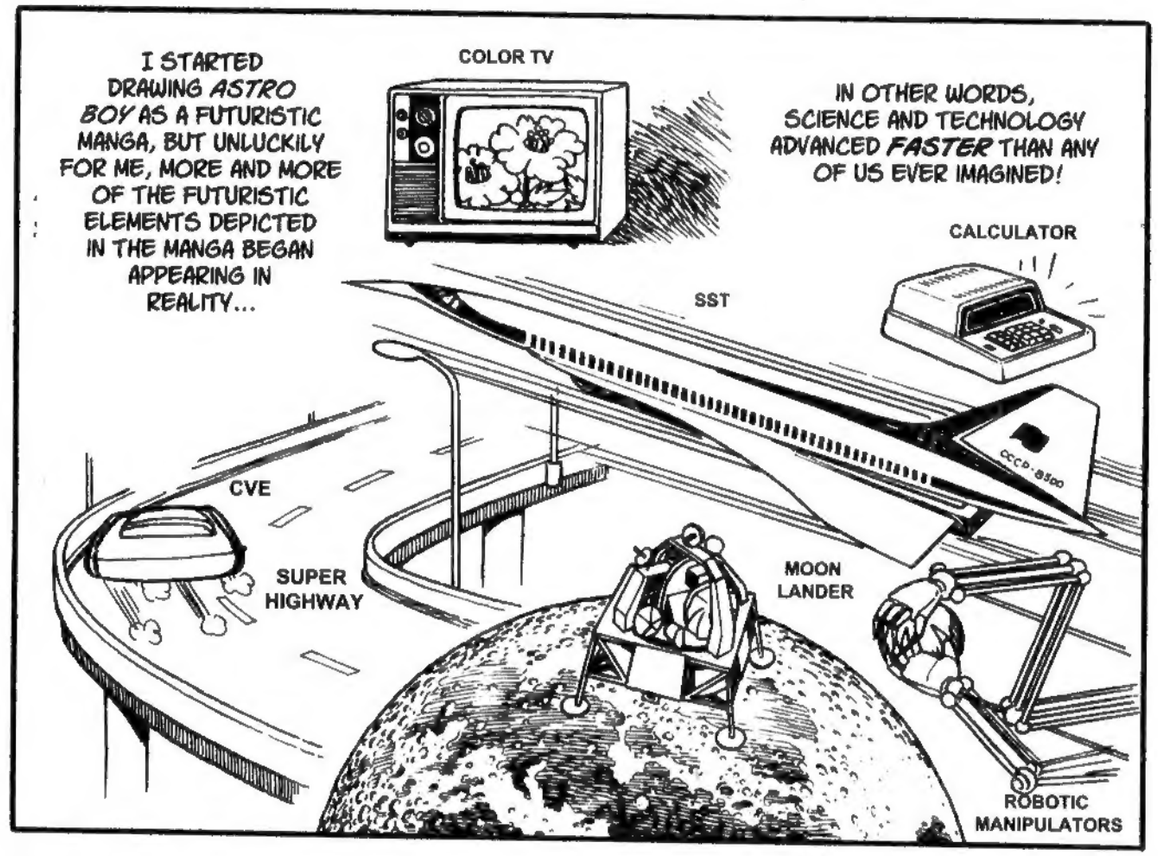
FAREWELL, ASTRO BOY... FAREWELL...

FLASH

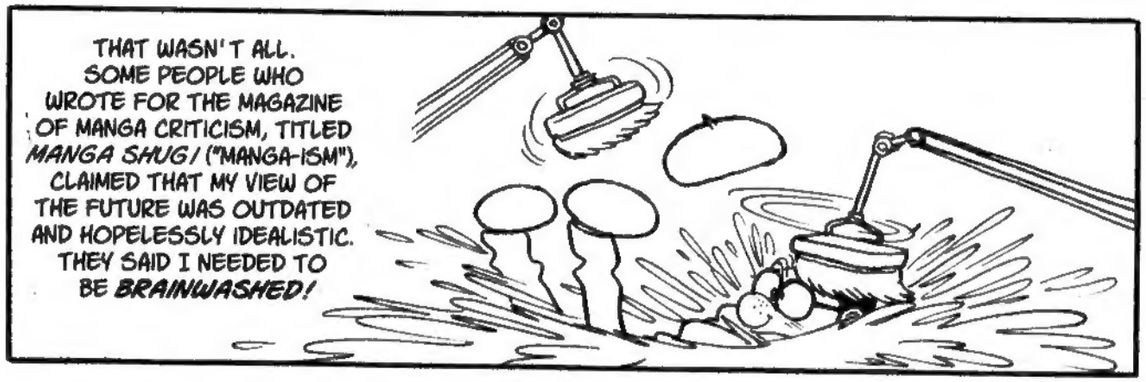
POOR MEEVA....

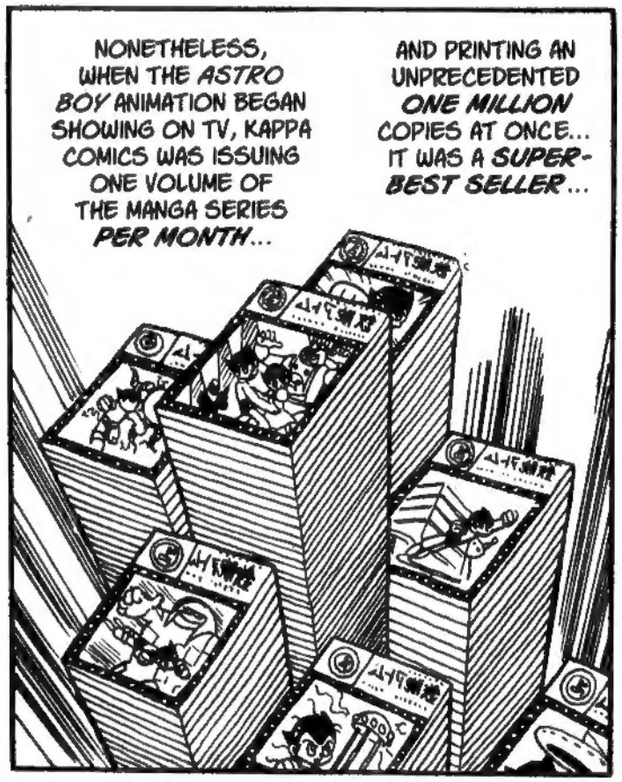
ASTRO BOY'S ORIGINS AND HISTORY, PART 3

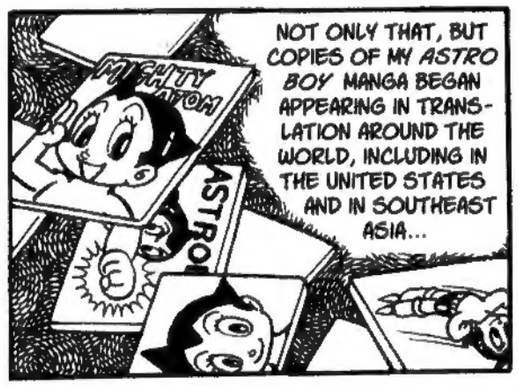

WHEN MY ASTRO BOY MANGA FIRST APPEARED, THERE WERE ALMOST NO OTHER SCIENCE-FICTION MANGA OR NOVELS IN JAPAN, SO IT WENT ON TO CREATE SOMETHING OF A TREND.
I ROBOT
DO YOU KNOW 3 RULES OF THE ROBOTS
DURING THE SAME PERIOD, IN THE UNITED STATES THE SCIENCE-FICTION WRITER ISAAC ASIMOV CREATED HIS "THREE LAWS OF ROBOTS"...?
YOU COPIED ASIMOV FOR YOUR ROBOT LAW, DIDN'T YOU, DR. TEZUKA..?
I KEEP TELLING YOU, I ACTUALLY MADE IT UP LONG BEFORE ASIMOV...

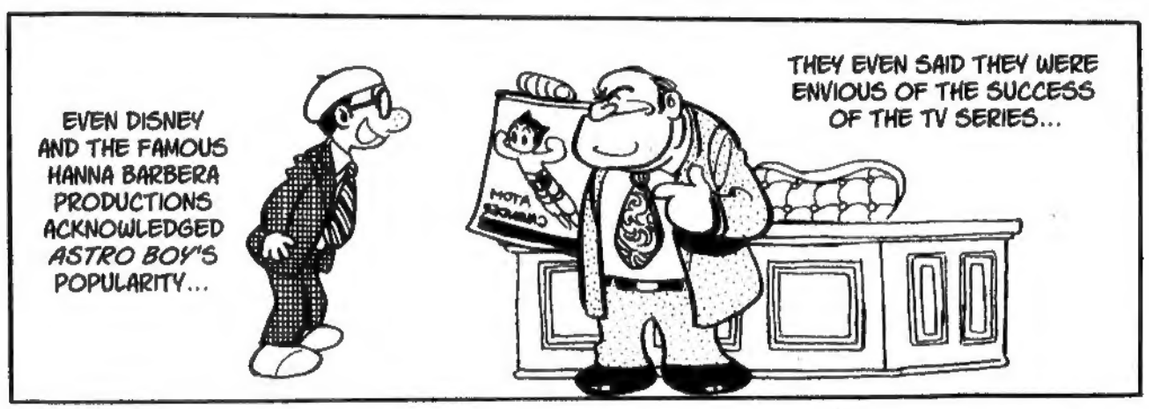

I STARTED DRAWING ASTRO BOY AS A FUTURISTIC MANGA, BUT UNLUCKILY FOR ME, MORE AND MORE OF THE FUTURISTIC ELEMENTS DEPICTED IN THE MANGA BEGAN APPEARING IN REALITY...
COLOR TV
IN OTHER WORDS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCED FASTER THAN ANY OF US EVER IMAGINED!
CALCULATOR
SST
CVE
SUPER HIGHWAY
MOON LANDER
ROBOTIC MANIPULATORS

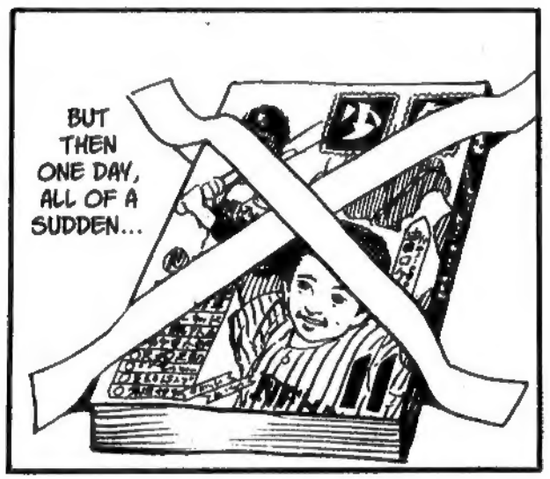
IN SPITE OF THIS, AT THE TIME LOTS OF PEOPLE SAID MY MANGA WERE TOO HARD TO BELIEVE, AND TOO FANTASTIC...
MANY EXPERTS ON CHILDREN'S LITERATURE SAID THE SAME THING. MITSUO SANO, FOR EXAMPLE, WROTE IN A REVIEW THAT THE IDEA OF PEOPLE DRIVING ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD IN THE FUTURE WAS RIDICULOUS...
OF COURSE, WHEN I READ THIS, I BURST OUT LAUGHING!

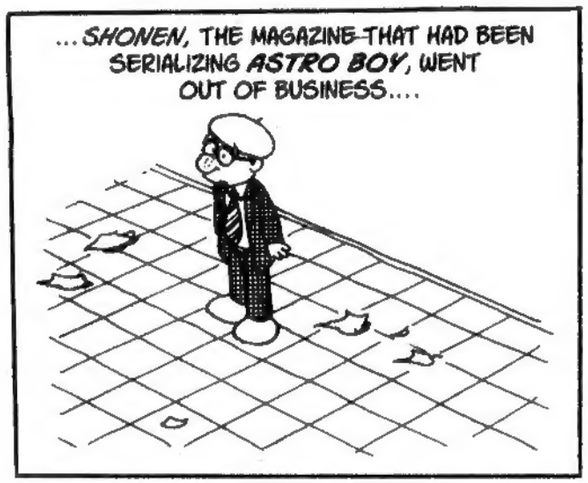

THAT WASN'T ALL. SOME PEOPLE WHO WROTE FOR THE MAGAZINE OF MANGA CRITICISM, TITLED MANGA SHUG! ("MANGA-ISM"), CLAIMED THAT MY VIEW OF THE FUTURE WAS OUTDATED AND HOPELESSLY IDEALISTIC. THEY SAID I NEEDED TO BE BRAINWASHED!


NONETHELESS, WHEN THE *ASTRO BOY* ANIMATION BEGAN SHOWING ON TV, KAPPA COMICS WAS ISSUING ONE VOLUME OF THE MANGA SERIES ***PER MONTH***...
AND PRINTING AN UNPRECEDENTED ***ONE MILLION*** COPIES AT ONCE... IT WAS A ***SUPER-BEST SELLER***...

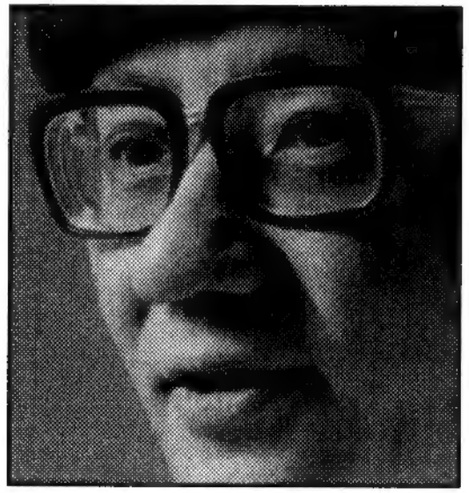

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT COPIES OF MY *ASTRO BOY* MANGA BEGAN APPEARING IN TRANSLATION AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA...


EVEN DISNEY AND THE FAMOUS HANNA BARBERA PRODUCTIONS ACKNOWLEDGED *ASTRO BOY'S* POPULARITY...
THEY EVEN SAID THEY WERE ENVIOUS OF THE SUCCESS OF THE TV SERIES...





THE END



Osamu Tezuka was born in the city of Toyonaka, in Osaka, Japan, on November 3, 1928, and raised in Takarazuka, in Hyogo prefecture. He graduated from the Medical Department of Osaka University and was later awarded a Doctorate of Medicine.

In 1946 Tezuka made his debut as a manga artist with the work *Ma-chan's Diary*, and in 1947 he had his first big hit with *New Treasure Island*. In over forty years as a cartoonist, Tezuka produced in excess of an astounding 150,000 pages of manga, including the creation of *Metropolis*, *Mighty Atom* (a.k.a. *Astro Boy*), *Jungle Emperor* (a.k.a. *Kimba the White Lion*), *Black Jack*, *Phoenix*, *Buddha*, and many more.

Tezuka's fascination with Disney cartoons led him to begin his own animation studio, creating the first serialized Japanese cartoon series, which was later exported to America as *Astro Boy* in 1963. Tezuka Productions went on to create animated versions of *Kimba the White Lion* (*Jungle Emperor*) and *Phoenix*, among others.

He received numerous awards during his life, including the Bungei Shunju Manga Award, the Kodansha Manga Award, the Shogakukan Manga Award, and the Japan Cartoonists' Association Special Award for Excellence. He also served a variety of organizations. He was a director of the Japan Cartoonists' Association, the chairman of the Japan Animation Association, and a member of the Manga Group, Japan Pen Club, and the Japan SF Authors' Club, among others. Tezuka became Japan's "comics ambassador," taking Japan's comics culture to the world. In 1980, he toured and lectured in America, including a speech at the United Nations.

Regarded as a national treasure, Osamu Tezuka died on February 9, 1989 at the age of 60. In April 1994, the Osamu Tezuka Manga Museum opened in the city of Takarazuka, where he was raised. His creations remain hugely popular in Japan and are printed in many languages throughout the world, where he is acclaimed as one of the true giants of comics and animation, his work as vital and influential today as it was half a century ago.

"Comics are an international language," Tezuka said. "They can cross boundaries and generations. Comics are a bridge between all cultures."